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Andrea Yates

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## Fla. congressmen introduce law to require at least 12 in fleet

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Seahawks RB Shaun Alexander



# Wild weekend



Jets RB Curtis Martin



Rams QB Marc Bulger

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Chargers QB Drew Brees

AP photos

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# News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## World

**Ukraine election:** The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected losing presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich's appeal of last month's presidential revolt.

The three-judge panel threw out his appeal, which alleged massive fraud and asked the court to invalidate voting in all of Ukraine's 22 electoral districts. The panel did not immediately explain its ruling.

The appeal was a bid to overturn the Central Election Commission's unanimous refusal last week to consider a similar complaint.

Yanukovich, who still has one more chance to overturn the election results, has said openly he had little hope of success, but has vowed to fight on against the Dec. 26 vote, which preliminary results show Yushchenko winning.

**Romanian rock star death:** A U.S. Marine who left Romania after being involved in a Dec. 3 fatal auto accident in Bucharest while serving as a member of the U.S. Embassy security detail there, is still working at his battalion headquarters in Quantico, Va. The case is still under investigation, a Marine spokesman said.

Staff Sgt. Christopher R. VanGoethem, who was commander of the embassy's security detachment at the time, was taken out of Romania within a day after the accident that killed Teofil Peter, a popular Romanian musician.

The Romanian government asked the United States to waive VanGoethem's immunity and return him to Bucharest to be questioned.

But on Thursday, State Department spokesman Lou Fintor said it was premature to consider the request until the investigation by Naval Criminal Investigative Service is finished.

## War on terrorism

**Padilla trial challenge:** Attorneys defending an American accused of participating in an al-Qaida plot to set off a "dirty bomb" have issued a challenge to federal prosecutors: prove it or free him.

Jose Padilla's attorneys on Wednesday asked U.S. District Judge Henry Floyd to hear their writ of habeas corpus, a petition that allows a civilian judge to consider their case. Padilla was not present.

Padilla was arrested at Chicago's O'Hare

International Airport in 2002 after returning from Pakistan. The federal government has said he received weapons and explosives training from members of al-Qaida.

## Business

**WorldCom lawsuit:** Ten former WorldCom board members have tentatively agreed to pay \$54 million, a third of it from their own pockets, to settle their portion of a lawsuit brought over the company's collapse, according to published reports Thursday.

The outside directors agreed in principle to pay \$18 million of their own money, with the remaining \$36 million to be paid by the directors' liability insurers, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times reported. The class-action suit was brought by investors who lost billions when WorldCom went under in a multibillion-dollar accounting scandal.

**US Airways financial troubles:** A bankruptcy judge on Thursday canceled a collective bargaining agreement between US Airways and its machinists union, providing millions of dollars in annual savings that the airline says will prevent the need for imminent liquidation.

The termination of the contract with the International Association of Machinists would result in pay cuts for union workers ranging from 6 percent to 35 percent and the loss of thousands of union jobs.

## States

**N.H. murder case:** Pamela Smart, the key figure in New Hampshire's most publicized murder trial, is asking for a pardon.

Smart, 37, was convicted in 1991 of persuading her teenage lover and his friends to murder her husband. Four teens, including one who admitted pulling the trigger, testified against her in a trial that was televised live around the state, and prompted several books and a movie.

In a pardon request filed last week with the attorney general's office, Smart repeats her arguments that she didn't get a fair trial because of all the media attention and her sentence was too harsh.

**Spector trial transcripts:** A California appeals court has denied a request by attorneys for famed rock music producer Phil Spector to keep grand jury transcripts in his murder case sealed.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los

Angeles issued a one-line judgment Wednesday denying the petition and upholding a Superior Court judge's ruling in November that the transcripts should be released.

Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler said Spector's lawyers failed to show how releasing the documents would prevent a fair jury from being chosen for the trial.

**Michael Jackson trial:** A comedy club owner who is a witness in the Michael Jackson molestation case held a news conference in Los Angeles to accuse the singer's defense team of harassing him.

As soon as he wrapped up his remarks Wednesday, he was served with a fresh defense subpoena.

Jamie Masada, who owns the Laugh Factory in Hollywood, introduced Jackson to the boy who is accusing the pop star of molestation. The boy had participated in Masada's comedy camp for underprivileged children and was battling cancer when Jackson met him at Masada's urging.

**Space station problems:** The space station crew is spending the new year dealing with an old problem: a broken oxygen generator.

The primary machine for producing oxygen aboard the international space station stopped working again Saturday. The cabin atmosphere was replenished Tuesday with oxygen from the supply ship that arrived on Christmas Day with much-needed food.

Cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov and astronaut Leroy Chiao spent most of Wednesday trying to fix the Russian-built oxygen generator. The latest problem appears to be similar to what crippled the system last year.

## Military

**Abu Ghraib trials:** An Army reservist seen prominently in the photos of Iraqi prisoners who were suffering sexual humiliation and other brutality at the Abu Ghraib prison goes to trial Friday in Fort Hood, Texas.

Barring last-minute plea deals, Spt. Charles Graner of Uinton, Pa., will be the first of four soldiers from the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company to be tried for crimes that allegedly occurred in the Baghdad prison in late 2003.

Among the soldiers is Pfc. Lynndie England, who in October gave birth to a child that Army prosecutors claim was the result of an extramarital affair with Graner. Her Fort Hood trial has not yet been scheduled.

From staff and wire reports

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# Military adjusts plans as aid efforts advance

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN

Stars and Stripes

UTAPAO, Thailand — With more assessments coming in and even more supplies going out, the overall plan for the U.S. military's humanitarian relief mission in tsunami-stricken South Asia has altered slightly.

The military task force heading to the operation, formerly Joint Task Force 536, now is called Combined Support Force 536, and it's leading the newly dubbed "Operation United Assistance." The United Kingdom, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia have joined forces to provide relief to the region, according to a CSF-536 spokesman.

Another change in the operations plan is to be the breakup of the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group 5, which is carrying the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Marine Lt. Col. Robert Krieg, CSF-536 operation planning team member, said now just one ship from the group will head to Sri Lanka to help relief efforts there. The former plan had called for one ship to stay off Indonesia

and the group's remaining two ships to head to Sri Lanka.

After a further assessment, Krieg said, "we need less in Sri Lanka than we originally thought."

The ship will carry items including water production equipment, heavy machinery and personnel to help in Sri Lanka.

The 15th MEU and the ships carrying it are headed to the Middle East for a combat tour. Krieg said their current schedule gave them a two-week window in which they could stop here and lend a hand.

The new ships off the Indonesian island of Sumatra will join the U.S. Navy vessels from Expeditionary Strike Group 5, which have been there since Jan. 2. Krieg said the Bonhomme Richard ships will cover Indonesia's west coast south of Meulaboh and CSF 5 will cover the coastline north of the port city. When all ships are in place, a total of 46 helicopters will be ferrying supplies.

While forces are being realigned throughout the region, so too is how relief supplies are getting in. Krieg said some supplies now are being flown directly into areas where they're needed. The original plan was to use Utapao as the main hub and distribute supplies from there.

"We're tailoring our operations from the starter kit we assembled" with the units, Krieg said.

With almost 12,000 of the approximately 14,500 U.S. servicemembers in the region belonging to the Navy, Krieg said, the operation's "focus of efforts are sea-based."

As of Wednesday, he said, 48 tons of supplies had been delivered in Indonesia, 134 tons to Thailand and two tons to Sri Lanka, where relief operations just began. A total of 169 sorties had been flown by C-130 transport planes, 145 helicopter sorties had gone out, 113 by the H-60 Seahawk, and 32 by CH-46s.

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## U.S. forces realigned to meet evolving needs for tsunami disaster

### DoD's cost: \$6M a day

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Defense Department is spending about \$6 million a day to operate the fleet of ships, aircraft and other military resources that have joined the tsunami relief effort in South Asia, a spokesman said Thursday.

Army Col. Gary Keck, a Pentagon public affairs officer, said the \$6 million per day covers a U.S. contingent of about 13,000 military personnel, of which about 12,000 are aboard 17 Navy ships in the region hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and resulting tsunami.

The latest ship to join the effort was the USNS Mercy, a hospital ship that set sail Wednesday evening from San Diego. It is initially slated to support 250 patient beds but could be expanded to 1,000 beds with additional medical staff.

The humanitarian operation Project HOPE has expressed interest in providing medical staff for the Mercy, which will take about 30 days to reach South Asia.

Still en route to the area from Okinawa is the USS Fort McHenry, with 400 Marines and sailors and six CH-46 helicopters aboard. It is expected to arrive off the coast of Indonesia in the next several days.

The biggest share of the estimated \$6 million-a-day cost for the USS Abraham Lincoln battle group, which was in port at Hong Kong when the tsunami struck and was the first U.S. Navy group to arrive on the scene last week. Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, has said it costs about \$2.5 million a day to operate the Lincoln group, which has 17 helicopters aboard.

# Yokota airmen to bolster security at relief points

BY VINCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota was slated to beef up its role in the U.S. military's massive tsunami-relief effort this week by dispatching about 30 personnel from the 374th Security Forces Squadron to South Asia.

They'll focus primarily on ensuring aircraft and installations there are protected but the group likely also will be asked to perform crowd control when aid packages are handed out, particularly in remote locations.

"As we've all seen on the TV news reports, lots of people get very close to the aircraft, with outstretched arms," said 1st Lt. Warren Comer, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman. "Security forces will be there to make sure the distribution process is a little more orderly. We want to get the relief supplies to those people but sometimes you've got to go into an area where there's a lot of activity. Having security forces with you is an added bonus because you know you can control the environment a little better."

"All the jobs that security forces handle, they'll be doing in a deployed environment," Comer said. "They're not going into a hostile environment or war zone, but a devastation area where we provide relief."

The scheduled deployment will raise Yokota's force commitment in Operation United Assistance to about 270 troops. That includes Col. Mark Schissler, the 374th Airlift Wing commander, and 45 other airmen from the maintenance squadron and his immediate staff who left for South Asia on Thursday morning.

Late Wednesday, the security forces targeted for deployment rolled up their sleeves figuratively and literally — for last-minute immunizations, health checkups and consultations with finance, public health and family support center representatives. Yokota's chaplain, Fargo, also was part of the deployment line, set up in the back of Building 400 near the flightline.

"Each of those stations is designed to make sure people's affairs are in order and



VINCE LITTLE/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Rinehart, left, of the 374th Comptroller's Squadron, addresses financial concerns Wednesday night at a deployment line set up in Building 400, near Yokota Air Base's flightline. More airmen left this week for South Asia to take part in the U.S. military's massive tsunami-relief efforts.

they're deployable," said 1st Lt. Ben Alumbaugh, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman. "It's a safety net, so they don't have something looming over their heads while they're gone. They always try to do a mass line, especially for a short-notice TDY. We make sure to take care of these issues so they can fulfill the mission."

Airman 1st Class Randy Gingery, making his first career deployment, said he isn't sure what to expect in South Asia, where the staggering death toll from last month's catastrophic earthquake and tsunamis has reached 150,000, with tens of thousands more people injured. He's just hoping to help provide humanitarian assistance and restore order.

"I'm going to look for the best and not hope for the worst," Gingery said. "I'm ner-

vous but I've been trained and know what to do if anything gets out of hand. I'm pretty confident."

Yokota's security forces train regularly in riot control, said 1st Lt. Gregory Holmgren, the squadron's executive officer. The contingent is carrying that type of gear on the trip, just in case such a situation arises.

But once they get to Utapao, Thailand — the main relief-distribution hub being used by the U.S. military — security of the airfield and tent sites will be the unit's top priority, he added.

"Being able to maintain crowd control is essential," Holmgren said. "We're going down there to maintain the peace and protect our people at the same time."

Once the outlying parts of the devastated region become safer, Yokota security forces

See more tsunami-related stories and photos on Page 7 and Stripes' Web site at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)

may be asked to tag along on helicopter-relief missions to transport the aircraft as crews hand out food, water and emergency medical supplies to the tragedy's survivors, according to Capt. Bill Barron, the squadron's operations officer.

"Helicopters are going where trucks and airplanes can't," Barron said. "Many roads have been destroyed, so the only way to get anything in is with helicopters. It's possible we'll go to different areas that have smaller airfields with none to very little service. If that happens, we'll go out — service the aircraft."

But this trip is hardly being viewed as routine by many of Yokota's security forces personnel.

Senior Airman Aaron Reed, who's been to the Middle East in support of the global war on terrorism, said the humanitarian aspect offers a unique perspective and is far more appealing.

"This is the good stuff," he said, "where you can see the direct result of your efforts. We'll get to see hands on the good that we want to do. Nobody wants to fight a war."

"I became a cop to be able to help defend and protect people, not to enforce my will on others. I think most of us feel the same way. If that's what it's really all about — service before self. We want to help those people out down there. I definitely like this better because you get a sense of satisfaction."

Adm. Fargo said it's not that the military is more interested in doing these types of missions. The help they're providing makes it special. We're bringing supplies like food, band-aids and clothes to victims of a much more devastating tragedy and many have been suffering since it happened. The positive feedback you get is very rewarding."

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# Fa. lawmakers push to keep 12 carriers

By LEO SHANE III  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Three Florida members of Congress announced legislation Wednesday to mandate that the Navy keep 12 aircraft carriers in its fleet, a move prompted by Pentagon proposals to decommission the Florida-based USS Kennedy to save money.

Sens. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and Mel Martinez, R-Fla., and Rep. Ander Crenshaw, R-Fla., criticized Pentagon officials for considering the proposal, which they say would jeopardize national security, as well as financially devastate northern Florida.

"We should be wise enough to recognize that at a time of war, our nation needs 12 carriers," Martinez said. "We all hope there could be such a time when we don't need this kind of defense,

but it's not now."

Navy officials refused to comment on the legislation and budget proposal. Navy Secretary Gordon England spoke to all three lawmakers last week to inform them of the Kennedy's proposed shutdown, which could save about \$1.2 billion.

Nelson said the USS Kitty Hawk, based in Yokosuka, Japan, is scheduled to be decommissioned in 2008 and its replacement, the USS George H.W. Bush, is two years behind schedule and won't be in service until 2009.

Crenshaw said that it's one of the smallest savings in the \$30 billion cut in the Pentagon's 2006 budget proposal, but could have the most impact on military readi-

ness. He also criticized the decision to make the cuts in behind-the-scenes budget meetings rather than leaving the issue for the 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review process.

"The leadership in the Pentagon is making a short-sighted decision prompted by budget

woes," he said. "If you take this carrier out of service, that's an irreversible decision that puts us at tremendous strategic risk."



Preble

but Christopher Preble, foreign policy studies director for the Cato Institute and Gulf War Navy veteran, said the usefulness of U.S. carriers against terrorists is limited, since the only obvious concentration of terrorists to launch large-scale attacks against was in Afghanistan.

"For them to make the argument that carriers are essential for the war on terror is absurd," he said. "There are things that the carrier can do that no other platform can, but you can say that about most of the U.S. military."

The Kennedy, based at Mayport Naval Station, returned to Florida in December after a six-month mission in the Middle East. The carrier has a crew of more than 3,100, and Crenshaw es-

timates its presence brings about \$250 million annually into the Jacksonville area.

The 36-year-old carrier underwent \$350 million in repairs last spring and is scheduled to undergo another \$378 million overhaul later this year.

He also pointed to 2003 and 2002 Navy posture statements, which note that "real-world experience and analysis indicate that a carrier force of 15 ships is necessary."

Preble said in the past Congress and the White House have overturned similar defense department cuts, but described the legislation as an unusual pre-emptive move.

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## Navy merges dental clinic with Yokosuka hospital

By JIM O'DONNELL  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy, in an effort to increase efficiency, disestablished its seventh dental command at a ceremony Thursday at Yokosuka's Benny Decker Theater. Five more dental commands throughout the Navy will be disestablished by mid-February, according to a Navy official.

U.S. Naval Dental Center Far East officially was disestablished after more than 47 years of service in Japan when the dental clinic's final commanding officer, Capt. Wayne Lapetoda, presented the dental command flag to Capt. Charles Taylor, Yokosuka Naval Hospital's commanding officer.

The change should have minimal effect on Yokosuka dental patients, officials said. The dental command was integrated into Yokosuka Naval Hospital on Thursday as part of the U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine's answer to a challenge from Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark, said Rear Adm. Dennis Wootter, deputy director for Naval Medicine, who officiated at the ceremony.

"Adm. Clark, when he assumed his office nearly five years ago, challenged all of his commanders ... to reduce their administrative and command-and-control infrastructures to be more efficient ... with the objective to reduce labor costs," Wootter said.

"This integration initiative is Navy Medicine's response to that challenge. There is a lot of overhead that goes with maintaining separate commands, and the inherent support staff that goes with each of those. By merging them, we ought to be able to enjoy some economies of scale and reduce redundant and duplicate processes."

Wootter said he expected most



patients would notice no difference to their service or care after the integration, saying changes mostly affect administrative processes. When the integration plan was under consideration, officials found almost 100 administrative processes in parallel between medical and dental commands, Wootter said.

"By merging," he said, "we should be able to achieve very significant savings in manpower and efficiencies."

Short of physical changes such as the locations for picking up records or making appointments, most people won't be affected by the integration, he said.

He does, however, expect integration to affect Naval Medicine's personnel numbers.

"If we do it right, and we actually achieve these efficiencies that are potentially there, it should result in a demand for a smaller labor force," he said. Wootter expects some reductions in civilian, contractor and military numbers but said he could not immediately predict where the cuts would be made.

The integration of Navy dental commands should be invisible as well for most personnel just getting into Naval Medicine, but it may affect them later on in their careers.

"The folks who stay with the system longer and move into the administrative side, that we expect to have an understanding of a full spectrum of health care not just medical care or dental care," Wootter said.

Several sailors at Thursday's ceremony said they had come to agree that the integration was a good idea, though most said they were a little skeptical at first. "I feel it's a good idea," but it may affect them later on in their careers. Petty Officer 3rd Class Jessamine Delgado, a dental technician from Atsugi Naval Air Facility. "I just think it's going to take a few steps to get where everyone will feel comfortable."

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Jones said he believes the integration will open up more career possibilities.

"It might be a good opportunity for DTs (dental technicians) to get acclimated with the hospital. It's good we are going to become one big command," said the dental technician from Yokosuka.


E-mail Jim O'Donnell at: [odonnell@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:odonnell@stripes.osd.mil)

## Walking down the Kitty Hawk



JOSHUA LEGRAND/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Atop the USS Kitty Hawk's flight deck, air department personnel participate in a foreign-object debris walk-down Monday. FOD walk-downs are required before flight operations to clear the area of any loose matter that could foul jet intakes or become an airborne hazard.



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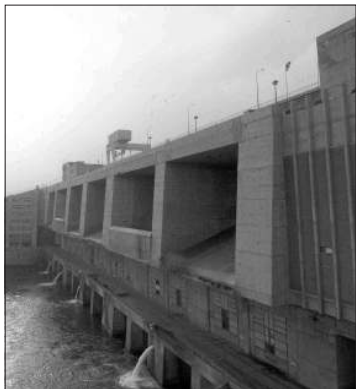
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PHOTOS BY JOSEPH GORDONO/Stars and Stripes

The power-generating turbines at the base of Haditha Dam, left, provide power for around one-third of Iraq. The 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, above, uses the dam structure as its living quarters and base.

# For Marines, life in dam like being at sea

## A constant hum, plenty of stairs, lots of water — but no movement

BY JOSEPH GORDONO  
Stars and Stripes

**T**he Marines say it's like living in the secret lair of a James Bond villain — at least one of the villains from the slightly dated Sean Connery-Roger Moore era.

Perched at the southern end of Lake Qadisiyah in Iraq's Al Anbar province, along the Euphrates River, the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment occupies what has to be the most distinct base camp in Iraq: a hydroelectric dam.

The base isn't beside the dam, or near the dam. It's inside the massive concrete structure. Office spaces and long concrete hallways have been converted to living areas, a chow hall and weight rooms.

Giant concrete rooms with transformers, high-voltage wires and in-

decipherable machines festooned with dials and knobs are used as phone centers, a makeshift gym and a chapel.

At the same time, the Marines say, the dam is fully operational and provides power to up to one-third of Iraq's 25 million people.

"It's almost exactly like being on a ship. You've got all the stairwells, there's the constant humming from the turbines, the water all around," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Watson, 38, from Warner Robins, Ga.

The stairwell, or "laddercell" in Marine-speak, is the most noted feature of the Marines' temporary home. The dam has 11 levels above ground and none of the elevators works. Each level has ceilings of different heights, so sometimes going from one floor to another involves three to four flights of stairs.

For exercise, the Marines run the stairwells and jog along the top of the dam.

"It's definitely a workout," said 1st Lt. James Crabtree. "The spaces get wider as you get toward the base of the dam. There are three levels below ground, but they're off-limits to us."

Deep in the bowels of the structure, the tops of the power turbines are visible in a cavernous space bounded on one side by a wall of pointed metal panels. At the far end of the room, a series of metal symbols, reminiscent of Soviet worker propaganda, extol the virtues of labor and the power provided by the dam.

"I had some friends in the unit that occupied the dam before we did," Crabtree said, walking past the turbines. "They described it to me, but until I got here, I couldn't really picture it."

Small signs in the stairwell landings list the actions Marines should take at several levels of alert, from a possible failure of the dam to a terrorist attack.

According to the Iraqi power plant workers still on duty, the facilities at the dam used to be a resort hotel for honeymooners under the Saddam Hussein regime. A quick look at the rooms

used as living quarters for the Marines backs that up — many have large balconies overlooking the spillways and the Euphrates, which leads downstream a few miles to the city of Haditha.

The balconies are separated from the rooms by large windows and double doors made of glass. The windows and doors have now been reinforced and taped over so they don't shatter in case of a rocket or mortar attack.

Marines say the area around the dam gets hit a few times a week by incoming rounds. At around 6 p.m. Tuesday, a pair of mortar rounds slammed into the ground near the dam. The explosions rattled fixtures and echoed through the cement halls. Marines in the chow hall barely paused, looking up from their T-Rations to see if any more rounds were in their way.

"This is pretty much the safest place in Iraq if you're going to get mortared," Watson said.

The Marines also share the facility with a company-size contingent of Azerbaijani soldiers, who provide perimeter security for the base. The Marines admit the Azerbaijanis have it pretty rough. They're on 18-month tours in Iraq and have no mail or telephone links to home.

Of course, the dam has its drawbacks for the Marines as well. Even though it was built just 20 years ago, much of the facility is crumbling. The plumbing doesn't work, so Marines have to use portable toilets and showers on either the first or seventh levels.

Mice are also a problem. In offices and living quarters throughout the dam, Marines have set up mousetraps and have made a sport of figuring out the best bait to lure the rodents. Peanut butter just gets licked off without triggering the trap. The old standby — cheese — works best, if you can get your hands on it.

Paradoxically, the dam experiences occasional power outages. The turbines shut down, the lights flicker and everything goes black. It's the only time the constant hum stops.

And there's the odor. Particularly on the lower levels of the dam, a distinct, pungent sulphur smell permeates the air. At times, it creeps up the stairwells all the way to the top levels.

The Marines aren't sure what causes the smell. But some have a sardonic guess: "We're living right on top of the gates of hell," they say.

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### The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A military doctor whose Web site chronicled the bloody aftermath of the suicide bombing of a dining tent in Iraq has shut down the site after being told his postings violated Army regulations.

In an e-mail from Iraq on Tuesday, Maj. Michael Cohen, with the 67th Combat Support Hospital unit, said he received a written warning but was not told

which Army regulations were being violated.

A short notice replaced the account on Cohen's site, [www.67csd-docs.com](http://www.67csd-docs.com).

"Levels above me have ordered, yes ORDERED, me to shut down this website. They cite that the information contained in these pages, violates several Army Regulations. I certainly disagree with this," it read.

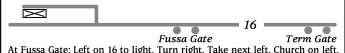
On his Web log, Cohen had described the chaotic scene after

the Dec. 21 mess hall bombing in which 22 people died.

He reported that eventually there were more wounded than emergency room beds.

Lt Col. Steven Boylan, a spokesman for coalition forces in Iraq, said he could not confirm the investigation into Cohen's blog.

He said the Pentagon allows blogs that do not disrupt unit discipline, make statements on behalf of commanders or the Army, or reveal details that could aid attackers.



At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.



# Iraq extends state of emergency 30 days

## Roadside bomb kills 7 soldiers

BY BASSEM MROUE  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A state of emergency, originally announced two months ago, was extended for 30 days throughout the country except for the Kurdish-run areas north of the country, an Iraqi government statement said. The decree includes a nighttime curfew and gives the government additional power to make arrests and launch operations.

"We expect some escalation [of attacks] here and there" ahead of Jan. 30 elections, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said. "This is a precaution to protect the Iraqi people as well as the elections."

A roadside bomb killed seven U.S. soldiers when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb in northwest Baghdad, the U.S. military said Friday.

The soldiers were on patrol in northwest Baghdad on Thursday evening when their Bradley fighting vehicle hit a roadside bomb, the military said in a statement. Everyone inside the Bradley was killed.

The bodies of 18 young Iraqi Shiites killed last month while seeking work at a U.S. base have



An Iraqi woman walks past a poster that says "no for dictatorship, yes for the Iraqi unity" and contains an image of the Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani on Thursday in Baghdad. The cleric's elections are still scheduled for Jan. 30.

been found in a field near Mosul, police said Thursday, as the Iraqi government extended a state of emergency for a month because of violence ahead of landmark elections.

Police said the insurgents shot the 18 men, who ranged in age from 14 to 20, execution style on Dec. 8 after stopping their two minibuses about 30 miles west of the volatile city, 225 miles north of Baghdad.

Their hands were tied behind

their backs and each was shot in the head, police said. All the men were Shiite Muslims from Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Kadhimiya who had been hired by an Iraqi contractor to work at a U.S. base in Mosul. The bodies were discovered Wednesday.

A second car bomber killed five Iraqi policemen in Baquba on Wednesday.

In a statement posted on a Web site Thursday, the al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Jordanian terrorist

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,338 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,053 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one lower than the Defense Department's tally. The British military has reported 76 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,200 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 944 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Tuesday when a patrol was attacked in Tal Afar in northern Iraq.

The latest identification reported by the Defense Department: ■ Army Spc. Craig L. Nelson, 21, Bossier City, La.; died Dec. 29 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., of injuries sustained Dec. 16 when an explosive detonated near his military vehicle in Baghdad; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, Shreveport, La.

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for both the Hillah and the Baquba attacks. The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for al-Zarqawi's capture — the same amount as for Osama bin Laden.

In an execution-style incident, the bodies of three Jordanian truck drivers shot in the head

were discovered on the outskirts of Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, an AP photographer at the scene said Thursday.

Also, a Marine belonging to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action Thursday while conducting operations in the Al Anbar province in western Iraq.

## Military looks into abuse

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Investigators will look into allegations of prisoner abuse at Guantanamo Bay described in recently released FBI documents, authorities said, as a new batch of FBI memos was released.

The U.S. Southern Command in Miami assigned Army Brig. Gen. John T. Furk to lead the investigation, which could begin as early as this week. The military maintains that most incidents detailed in the FBI memos occurred in 2002 when the prison was just opening, and that some of the interrogation techniques labeled as "aggressive" are no longer in use.

Documents published last month show FBI agents warned

the government about abuse and mistreatment when the first prisoners arrived, more than a year before a scandal at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. One letter, written by a senior U.S. Justice Department official, suggested the Pentagon failed to act on the FBI complaints.

"It will be fully investigated," Guantanamo's commanding Army Brig. Gen. Jay Hood said Wednesday, adding that recent articles about allegations have skewed the public's understanding about the mission and the troops' commitment to strict standards.

He said the independent military team was necessary to find and interview people who had left the remote outpost and were no longer under his command.

From wire reports

## Closing arguments delayed in alleged drowning

BY ANGELA K. BROWN

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Closing arguments were delayed Thursday in the military trial of a soldier accused in an Iraqi civilian's drowning death because the jury of Army officers said they wanted to hear from more witnesses.

Jurors said they wanted to hear from witnesses who weren't called to testify in the case, including Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins. He's being tried on charges of involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, obstruction of justice and lying to investigators. He faces a sentence ranging from nothing to 26 years if convicted.

The judge, Col. Gregory Gross,

said he would research the jurors' request and resume arguments later in the day. Gross rejected the jury's request for documents from previous court hearings in the case and other witness statements. In a court-martial, jurors are allowed to submit questions for witnesses.

Jurors also wanted to hear from Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville, but the judge said that would not happen. Saville is to be tried in March on the same charges as Perkins — as well as a conspiracy charge. Saville faces a maximum sentence of 29 years in prison.

An Iraqi civilian testified Wednesday that he and his cousin were detained while driving back to Samarra with a delivery of

supplying, then forced at gunpoint into the cold Tigris River as U.S. soldiers laughed.

Marwan Fadel Hassoun said he tried to save his 19-year-old cousin by grabbing his hand, but the powerful current swept Zaidoun Fadel Hassoun away. Marwan said the body was found in the river nearly two weeks later.

Three soldiers called by the defense testified Wednesday that they were looking through night-vision equipment that night and saw two Iraqis on the river bank after the incident.

Under cross-examination, two of the soldiers said they did not reveal that information until last summer because Army investigators, convinced that an Iraqi had died, had intimidated them.

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Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
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Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer Meeting	6:30 P.M.
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## IN THE WORLD

## Summit tackles health issues for survivors

Leaders fear tsunami death toll could double if refugees' basic needs aren't met

By MICHAEL C. CORDE

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Amid warnings that the anticipated 150,000 death toll from the Asian tsunami disaster could jump sharply without fresh aid, world leaders staggered by the calamity sought Thursday to figure out the best way to help victims — and to prevent such a catastrophe from happening again.

As donors held an emergency summit in Indonesia, relief workers scrambled to move aid to areas of Sumatra, the Indonesian island hit hardest by the massive earthquake and giant waves that crashed ashore Dec. 26. Volunteers hurled sacks of rice and instant noodles into trucks en route to the hungry even as U.S. helicopters buzzed overhead on their way to deliver supplies to Sumatra's isolated communities.

A radical Islamic group set up a relief camp in Sumatra, raising fears of agitation against U.S. and Australian military teams gearing up to assist victims. The militants, once headed by an al-Qaida-linked terror chief and infamous for attacking the Christian minority on Indonesia's far-flung islands, insisted they would not interfere with foreign troops — as long as they kept strictly to humanitarian operations.

South Korean relief workers helping victims of Asia's tsunami disaster may become targets of terror attacks, the government warned Thursday.

South Korea sent a "request to related countries" to take security measures for the aid workers, said Lee Kyu-hyung, a spokes-

man of Seoul's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

He did not elaborate, and it was not immediately clear whether South Koreans were more at risk than aid workers from other countries.

World leaders conferred in Jakarta about how to transform one of the largest aid packages ever assembled — nearly \$4 billion in pledges — into food for the hungry and shelter for the homeless. U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged nations to immediately come forward with the billions they've promised and to break with past practices of promising much and delivering little.

"The disaster was so brutal, so quick, and so far-reaching, that we are still struggling to comprehend it," Annan said. "We will never know the exact magnitude of how many men, women and children perished on 26 December."

Australia leads the world with a total aid pledge of \$810 million, followed by Japan and the United States.

President Bush contributed \$10,000 from his personal funds to the relief effort, his spokesman said Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said America would take a wait-and-see attitude before pledging more cash to tsunami relief.

"These are not insignificant numbers," Powell told reporters.

The World Health Organization said that if basic needs — particularly access to safe drinking water — are not restored by the end of this week, infectious diseases



Tsunami victims clean the destroyed area around their old homes at the eastern coastal village of Kattankudi, near Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, on Thursday. Getting aid to millions of tsunami victims is a race against time, and nations must immediately come forward with the money they pledged, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday during an emergency summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

could kill tens of thousands. The confirmed death toll in the region stands at 140,000, and senior U.N. officials have predicted it will reach 150,000.

Epidemics could claim a far higher number.

"We now estimate that as many as 150,000 people are at extreme risk if a major disease outbreak in the affected areas occurs," said WHO Director-General Dr. Lee Jong-wook.

For the moment, though, the threat of an outbreak of waterborne disease is being held in check by medical aid flooding into the region, U.N. officials said. While there are cases of diarrhea, respiratory and skin diseases and mental trauma, there have been no major outbreaks of disease in the devastated Aceh region, the U.N. health agency said Thursday.

But officials are concerned that unless this aid is sustained, the system could collapse. Rushing water purification tablets to survivors and building rudimentary toilets remain the focus of efforts to fend off deadly disease outbreaks in devastated communities.

The U.N. health organization is warning that hygiene in the hundreds of refugee camps that have sprung up around the region is the biggest disease concern.

## Orthodox Christians prepare for Christmas

By MIKE ECKEL

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The head of Russia's Orthodox Church offered blessings and prayers on the eve of the Christmas Thursday, noting in his traditional holiday greetings that 2004 was a difficult year for Russia.

Patriarch Alexy II also addressed Christians worldwide and people of other faiths, saying "Let us work together for the sake of peace and the prosperity of our peoples."

The patriarch made reference in his greetings to the string of terrorist attacks that struck Russia in August and September, including the Sept. 1-3 hostage-taking at the school in Beslan in which more than 340 people died, nearly half of them children.

"Flouting everything that is holy in their impious madness, terrorists raised their hands against children. The deaths of innocent victims has become our common grief and filled our hearts with pain and sorrow," he said.

"But at the same time, the horrible tragedy has shown that moral ideals are alive in the people: facing death, many people manifested high examples of selfless love for their neighbors, laying down their lives for their friends, as the Holy Scripture says," the patriarch said.

Christmas falls on Jan. 7 for Orthodox

Christians in the Holy Land, Russia and other Eastern Orthodox churches that use the old Julian calendar instead of the 16th century Gregorian calendar adopted by Catholics and Protestants and commonly used in secular life around the world.

Other Orthodox Christians celebrated the holiday on Dec. 25, including Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew — the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox — and the church in Greece and the Americas.

The patriarch met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin also Thursday, where he received well wishes from the Russian leader. Putin spoke at length about the humanitarian aid and rescue efforts Russia has provided to Asian countries devastated by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

"I want to again wish you a Merry Christmas, happiness and health to you and all the Orthodox Christians, to all the people who will be observing this holy holiday," Putin told the patriarch.

Putin was scheduled to travel to Tver, about 100 miles northwest of Moscow, later Thursday for holiday services.

State-run television scheduled a live broadcast of midnight-to-dawn mass from the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, a massive church near the Kremlin that was destroyed by Stalin and rebuilt with a golden dome several years ago.



The head of Russia's Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexy II, and President Vladimir Putin met Thursday on the eve of the Orthodox Christmas at the Kremlin. The patriarch received good wishes from Putin.

The Russian Orthodox Church, which was all but banned during the Soviet Union, has experienced a major resurgence since the 1991, with an estimated two-thirds of Russia's 144 million people believed to be observant.

## Mandela's son dies at 54

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Former President Nelson Mandela announced Thursday that his eldest son died Thursday of AIDS-related complications, saying the only way to fight the disease's stigma was to speak openly about it.

Makgabo Mandela, an attorney, was 54. "Let us give publicity to HIV/AIDS and not hide it, because the only way of making it appear to be a normal illness, just like (tuberculosis), like cancer, is always to come out and say somebody has died because of HIV," Mandela said.

More than 5 million of South Africa's 45 million people are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

## Canada mulls new drug rule

TORONTO — Internet sales of prescription drugs to U.S. consumers could be banned by Canada if a proposal being drafted by health officials is approved, changes that would essentially kill a \$700 million industry that has become increasingly popular with underserved patients in search of cheaper medicine.

The issue has become touchy politically for President Bush, whose administration has argued that reimporting U.S.-made drugs from Canada would put consumers at risk because U.S. regulators could not guarantee their safety.

From The Associated Press

## IN THE STATES

## Justice nominee criticized over torture policies

BY MARK SHERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney general nominee Alberto Gonzales drew scorching criticism from Senate Democrats on Thursday for his role in Bush administration policies on the treatment of terror suspects. He repudiated torture tactics and vowed to a contentious confirmation hearing to abide by international treaties on prisoner rights.

"I will no longer represent only the White House. I will represent the United States of America and

its people. I understand the difference between the two roles," President Bush's counsel told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

His assurances did little to placate Democrats. "America's troops and citizens are at greater risk" because of administration policies that are "tantamount to torture," said Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the panel's top Democrat.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., told Gonzales that policies he supported or helped formulate "have been used by the administration, the military and the CIA to justify torture and Geneva Convention violations by military and civilian personnel."

Despite the Democratic fireworks, Gonzales' nomination was widely expected to be confirmed by the GOP-led Senate. Even his detractors praised the rags-to-riches story of the Texas-raised son of Mexican im-



Opponents of attorney general nominee Alberto Gonzales appear at a Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Thursday.

migrants. "The road you traveled...all the way to the White House is a tribute to you and your family," Leahy said.

Gonzales, 49, seated by himself at the witness table, answered pointed questions in a calm, even voice. His wife, three sons, mother-in-law and a brother sat behind him in the first row of the audience.

Before Gonzales' confirmation hearing got under way, the White House refused to provide senators additional documents on his role in the decision to allow aggressive interrogations of terrorism detainees, adding to the ad-

ministration's confrontation with congressional Democrats over the now-repudiated policies.

David Leitch, the White House's deputy counsel, told committee Democrats in a letter released Thursday that the administration had already turned over all of the documents it plans to.

Asked about the torture scandal at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, Gonzales said he was "sickened and outraged by those photos." But he declined to give a legal opinion on the alleged abuses, suggesting he didn't want to prejudice a possible criminal case if he becomes attorney general.

## USDA nominee OK'd

WASHINGTON — A Senate Agriculture Committee majority on Thursday approved the nomination of Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns as the nation's 28th agricultural secretary.

Johanns is first of President Bush's second-term nominees to clear a Senate committee.

Johanns will resign as governor upon confirmation.

## Education nominee talks

WASHINGTON — White House domestic policy chief Margaret Spellings, who helped set the national agenda for schools, began the task Thursday of defining how she would lead them.

Spellings, nominated by President Bush to be the country's eighth education secretary, went before the Senate education committee Thursday. The committee unanimously recommended Senate confirmation, which is expected soon.

## Nominee eyes deficit

WASHINGTON — U.S. Commerce Secretary nominee Carlos M. Gutierrez is promising to aggressively fight the unfair trade practices of foreign nations and to speed up the government's handling of individual cases. American annual trade deficit is expected to top \$600 billion. American companies have lost 2.7 million jobs over the past four years.

From The Associated Press

## Conviction overturned for mother found guilty of drowning her 5 kids

BY MICHAEL GRACY

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Andrea Yates' capital murder convictions for drowning her children were overturned Thursday by an appeals court, which ruled that a prosecution witness' erroneous testimony about a nonexistent TV episode could have been crucial.

Yates' lawyers had argued at a hearing last month before a three-judge panel of the First Court of Appeals in Houston that psychiatrist Park Dietz was wrong when he mentioned an episode of the TV show "Law & Order" involving a woman found innocent by reason of insanity for drowning her children.

After jurors found Yates guilty, attorneys in the case and jurors learned no such episode existed. "We conclude that there is a reasonable likelihood that Dr. Dietz's false testimony could have affected the judgment of the jury," the court ruled. "We further conclude that Dr. Dietz's false testimony affected the substantial rights of appellant."

The appellate ruling returns the case for a new trial, although prosecutors said they hoped instead to successfully appeal Thursday's ruling. "We fully intend to pursue a motion for a rehearing," said Harris County Assistant District Attorney Alan Curry, who argued the case before the appeals court. "Barring that, we'll continue to appeal to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. We still believe we have a good shot to prevail in appeal."

Jurors in 2002 sentenced Yates to life in prison in the 2001 deaths of three of her four children. She was not tried in the deaths of the other two.

The defense's appeal cited 19 errors from her trial, but the appeals court said since the false testimony issue reversed the conviction, it was not ruling on the other matters. Among other things, Yates attorneys had claimed the Texas insanity standard is unconstitutional.

"We agree that this case does not involve the state's knowing use of perjured testimony," the appeals court said in its ruling.



Defense attorney George Pernham, who represented Andrea Yates during her trial, smiles as he talks about the overturned conviction in her case on Thursday in Houston.

A woman answering the telephone at Dietz's Newport Beach, Calif., office said Thursday there was no immediate comment from him or his firm. He had testified the episode aired shortly before the drownings, and other testimony during the trial had indicated that Yates watched the series.

A wet and bedraggled Yates called police to her home on June 20, 2001, and showed them the bodies of her five children: Noah, 7; John, 5; Paul, 3; Luke, 2; and 6-month-old Mary. She had called them into the bathroom and drowned them one by one.

According to testimony, Yates was overwhelmed by motherhood, considered herself a bad mother, and had attempted suicide and been hospitalized for depression.

Prosecutors acknowledged she was mentally ill but argued that she knew right from wrong and was thus not legally insane.

Dietz is a nationally known expert who also took part in such high profile cases as those of Susan Smith, convicted of killing her two children in a South Carolina lake; serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer; and "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski.

## Atheist who challenged pledge sues again with other parents

BY DAVID KRAVETS

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — An atheist who sued because he did not want his young daughter exposed to the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance has filed another lawsuit — this time with other parents.

Michael Newdow won his case more than two years ago before a federal appeals court, which said it was an unconstitutional blending of church and state for public school students to pledge to God.

In June, however, the Supreme Court dismissed the case, saying Newdow could not lawfully sue because he did not have custody of his elementary school-aged daughter and because the girl's mother objected to the lawsuit.

In the latest challenge filed Monday in Sacramento federal court, eight co-plaintiffs have joined the suit, and all are custodial parents or the children themselves, Newdow said.

The plaintiffs' names have been withheld from the lawsuit.

Newdow had promised to refile when the Supreme Court dismissed his case this summer.

"I want this decided on its merits," said Newdow, a doctor and a

lawyer, who again is the attorney in the latest pledge case.

Although the Supreme Court sidestepped the broader question of separation of church and state when it tossed the case, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote separately that the pledge as recited by schoolchildren does not violate the Constitution.

Justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Clarence Thomas agreed with him.

A fourth justice, Antonin Scalia, removed himself from the case after making off-the-bench remarks that seemed to televise his view that the pledge is constitutional.

Rehnquist wrote that the phrase "one nation under God" is more about ceremony and history than about religion. He likened the phrase to the motto "In God We Trust" on U.S. currency, and to the call that opens each session of the high court itself: "God save this honorable court."

Vickram Amar, a constitutional scholar at Hastings College of the Law, said this one starts with a 0-4 handicap from the Supreme Court's point of view. Lower court judges are not going to be oblivious to that "when they consider the issue."

No court date has been set.

**"I want this [case] decided on its merits."**

**Michael Newdow**  
Attorney for latest  
Pledge of Allegiance case





AP

Ron Owen of Glidden, Iowa, uses a snowblower to clear a sidewalk near his home on Thursday. Glidden received about 8.5-inches of snow from the slow-moving storm crossing the United States. The storm closed schools, slowed traffic but otherwise created few problems.

# Midwest storm inches east

By NATHANIEL HERNANDEZ  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A deadly storm carrying freezing rain and snow marched across the Great Lakes and into New England on Thursday, knocking out power to hundreds of thousands, setting loose barges and forcing snowplows into round-the-clock duty.

The snow and ice combined with fears of flooding to close hundreds of schools, and high water stranded about 10 families in Ohio.

Almost 10 inches of snow fell on O'Hare International Airport, canceling 300 flights Thursday, on top of the 1,000 flights that were grounded a day earlier, said Kristen Cabanan, spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Aviation.

Roads turned icy for the morning commute, and winter storm warnings stretched from Wisconsin to the East Coast.

Omaha, Neb., had 14 inches of snow, and more than a foot covered parts of southern Wisconsin. "My back is a little sore," Bob Metzger said after shoveling the snow outside his Badger Brothers Coffee shop in Plattville, Wis.

The snow extended Thursday to the East Coast. Nearly 6 inches had fallen in Wantage, N.J., by morning. In western New York, a foot of snow fell in Jamestown, and most schools in the state's largely rural southwest corner were closed.

In Connecticut, the snow combined with freezing rain, leading to a rash of tractor-trailer accidents that blocked traffic on interstates during the Thursday morning commute.

The storm came with bone-chilling cold in some areas, with temperatures falling to 36 below zero in Big Fork, Minn., and 22 below zero in Valentine, Neb.

The ice downed power lines around the region. Among outages were 179,000 homes and businesses in Ohio, more than 100,000 in Indiana and nearly 100,000 in Kansas.

Warning temperatures from Illinois into southern Michigan and Pennsylvania were changing freezing rain into showers Thursday, and officials warned of flooding.

In West Virginia, three bridges in the Wheeling area were shut down Thursday after eight barges broke loose on the Ohio River.

The river was expected to rise to more than 6 feet above the flood stage by Friday morning.

Since beginning its eastward trek earlier this week, the storm has killed at least four people in traffic accidents, one each in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Indiana. Icey roads also may have been a factor in accidents that killed two in Michigan and at least nine in Oklahoma.

## Ohio vote count still under fire

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A small group of Democrats agreed Thursday to force House and Senate debates on Election Day problems in Ohio before letting the U.S. Congress certify President Bush's win over Sen. John Kerry in November.

While Bush's victory is not in jeopardy, the Democratic challenge would legally compel Congress to interrupt tallying the Electoral College vote, which was scheduled to begin on Thursday. It would be only the second time

since 1877 that the House and Senate were forced into separate meetings to consider electoral votes.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California, signed a challenge mounted by House Democrats to Ohio's 20 electoral votes, which put Bush over the top. By law, a protest signed by members of the House and Senate requires both chambers to meet separately for up to two hours to consider it.

"I have concluded that objecting to the electoral votes from Ohio is the only immediate way to

bring these issues to light by allowing you to have a two-hour debate to let the American people know the facts surrounding Ohio's election," Boxer wrote in a letter to Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, a leader of the Democratic effort.

The action seems certain to leave Bush's victory intact because both Republican-controlled chambers would have to uphold the objection for Ohio's votes to be invalidated. Supporters of the drive said that rather than changing the election outcome, their hope was to shine a spotlight on the Ohio voting problems.

## Pilots call for more info on laser risks

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Officials with airline pilots unions say the government should be doing more to alert them to incidents involving lasers and to provide guidance about how best to protect themselves against beams that can blind.

At least eight recent incidents involve lasers being pointed at aircraft cockpits as they approached

for landings. No one was hurt and all the aircraft landed safely.

Denis Breslin, an American Airlines captain, said pilots learned about the incidents only through the news media. He said the government should have a way to alert pilots so they can take precautions.

"Pilots want a generalized warning and training. I think that's not too much to ask," said Breslin, first vice president of the

Allied Pilots Association.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Laura Brown said the agency is very concerned about the safety of pilots, passengers and the rest of the flight crew.

An FAA study released in June found that most pilots subjected to a laser flash in a simulator reported temporary visual impairment and brief distraction.



AP

Wreckage from two trains involved in a crash are shown on Thursday, near downtown Graniteville, S.C.

## Freight train crashes in S.C.

### Wreck kills 2; chlorine gas contaminates area

The Associated Press

GRANITEVILLE, S.C. — A Norfolk Southern freight train carrying chlorine gas struck a parked train early Thursday, killing two people and injuring at least 170 others, authorities said.

Decontamination sites were treating people exposed to fumes.

Most of the injured were treated for respiratory ailments and released, authorities said.

The wreck happened about 2:30 a.m. at an Avondale Mills facility in this textile town near the Georgia line. Thirteen cars derailed.

National Transportation Safety Board spokeswoman Lauren Peduzzi said the agency will send investigators to the scene later Thursday.

Gov. Mark Sanford declared a state of emergency for the county, activating the state emergency

operations center and making state resources available.

Norfolk Southern previously said two crew members on the moving train had inhaled chlorine, and were taken to a hospital. Another of the injured people was a woman whose car had been hit by a tree felled by one of the train cars. Her condition was unavailable.

No one was on the parked train, according to Norfolk Southern spokesman Robin Chapman.

Three of the 42 cars on the moving train were carrying chlorine, he said, but he didn't know how many of the cars were damaged.

Chlorine gas can damage the throat, nose and eyes and can be fatal.

Those who were exposed were told to report to decontamination units at two schools. Others in the area were told to stay inside their homes.

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# Health magazine names Seattle fittest city, Houston the fattest

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Seattle has been named the fittest city in the United States in the February issue of Men's Fitness magazine, leaving past the buff competition from Honolulu, Colorado Springs, San Francisco and Denver.

Exercising faithfully and shunning fast food boosted Seattle to the top from No. 6 last year, Men's Fitness Editor in Chief Neal Boulton said.

"Eighty-five percent of Seattle residents get some exercise every month, and that's a really significant thing," Boulton said.

The city's jittery love affair with espresso might fuel some of that activity, he noted. "There's not only a lot of it, it's pretty darn strong."

In its nonscientific Seventh Annual Fattest and Fittest Cities Report, the magazine compares 50 cities by weighing 14 factors, including fast food restaurants per capita, TV watching, air quality and parks.

In Seattle, for example, the magazine says sporting goods stores and gyms outnumber fast food joints — a key statistic.

Houston was named the fattest city for the fourth time in five

## The fittest

1. Seattle
2. Honolulu
3. Colorado Springs, Colo.
4. San Francisco
5. Denver
6. Portland, Ore.
7. Sacramento, Calif.
8. Tucson, Ariz.
9. San Diego
10. Albuquerque, N.M.
11. Boston
12. Virginia Beach, Va.
13. Minneapolis, Minn.
14. Fresno, Calif.
15. Milwaukee, Wis.
16. Omaha, Neb.
17. San Jose, Calif.
18. Jacksonville, Fla.
19. Austin, Texas
20. Oakland, Calif.
21. Los Angeles
22. Arlington, Texas
23. Washington, D.C.
24. Cleveland
25. Nashville-Davidson, Tenn.

## The fattest

1. Houston
2. Philadelphia
3. Detroit
4. Memphis, Tenn.
5. Chicago
6. Dallas
7. New Orleans
8. New York
9. Las Vegas
10. San Antonio
11. El Paso, Texas
12. Phoenix
13. Indianapolis
14. Fort Worth, Texas
15. Mesa, Ariz.
16. Columbus, Ohio
17. Wichita, Kan.
18. Kansas City, Mo.
19. Miami
20. Long Beach, Calif.
21. Oklahoma City, Okla.
22. Tulsa, Okla.
23. Atlanta
24. Charlotte, N.C.
25. Baltimore

years, followed by Philadelphia, Detroit, Memphis and Chicago.

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels praised the city's many walking trails and called the fitness of his fellow residents "inspirational."

Nickels said he made a New Year's resolution to get in better shape by walking with his wife and working out at a gym near City Hall.

"It's pretty hard to go more than a few blocks without seeing a gym," Nickels said.

Seattle's claim to the fitness crown makes sense to Doug Sherry and his wheaten terrier, Bing, who walk the three-mile park around Seattle's Green Lake every day, rain or shine.

"Everyone I know does some-



A cyclist rides Wednesday in the Space Needle and downtown Seattle, named the fittest city in the United States in the February issue of Men's Fitness magazine.

thing," explained Sherry, 35, who also hits the gym several times a week. "There's lots of good terrain to walk and bike and hike. You're close to the water, you're close to the mountains."

His advice for those seeking to emulate Seattle's healthy ways? "Enjoy the outdoors," Sherry said. "And get a dog."

# Warning: Labels may tickle your funny bone

BY DAVID N. GOODMAN  
The Associated Press

DETROIT — The sign on the toilet brush says it best: "Do not use for personal hygiene."

That admonition was the winner of an anti-lawsuit group's annual contest for the wackiest consumer warning label of the year.

The sponsor, Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, says the goal is "to reveal how lawsuits, and concern about lawsuits, have created a need for common sense warnings on products."

The \$500 first prize went to Ed Gyetvai, of Oldcastle, Ontario, who submitted the toilet-brush label. A \$250 second prize went to Matt Johnson, of Naperville, Ill., for a label on a children's scooter that said, "This product moves when used."

A \$100 third prize went to Ann Marie Taylor, of Camden, S.C., who submitted a warning from a digital thermometer that said, "Once used rectally, the thermometer should not be used orally."

"There are many cases of warning labels saving lives," said Joanne Doroshov, executive director of the Center for Justice and Democracy in New York.

# Extra copies of gene help protect some from AIDS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Having extra copies of a gene that produces a blocking protein helps protect people from AIDS, a finding that may explain why some people are more susceptible to the disease than others, a new study reports.

Researchers wondering why people from the same ancestry varied in their ability to resist HIV and AIDS found differences in the number of copies of the gene that encodes CCL3L1, a protein that blocks HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Researchers hope the finding, reported in Thursday's online issue of the journal Science, help them identify people who have a higher or lower susceptibility to the disease.

"Individual risk of acquiring HIV and experiencing rapid disease progression is not uniform within populations," said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which funded the study.

"This important study identifies genetic factors of particular groups that either mitigate or enhance one's susceptibility to infection and disease onset," Fauci said in a statement.

The study looked at more than

4,300 blood samples from people of different ancestral origin to determine the average number of CCL3L1 gene copies in each group.

The researchers reported that, for example, HIV-negative African-American adults had an average of four CCL3L1 copies, while HIV-negative European- and Hispanic-American adults averaged two and three copies each.

They said this does not mean that one group is more prone to AIDS than another, only that people with fewer copies than their population's average were more susceptible to HIV infection while those with more than average copies were less prone to infection.

Senior authors of the study were Dr. Sunil K. Ahuja of the University of Texas Health Science Center and the Veterans Administration Center for AIDS and HIV-1 Infection in San Antonio and Dr. Matthew J. Dolan of the Air Force's Wilford Hall Medical Center and Brooks City-Base in San Antonio.

In addition to NIAID the research was supported by National Institute of Mental Health, the Veterans Administration Center for AIDS and HIV-1 Infection, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

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# FACES

## Ashlee Simpson booed at Orange Bowl

Ashlee Simpson's Orange Bowl halftime performance was a lemon, according to the 72,000-plus Miami crowd.

The 20-year-old singer received a discernible chorus of boos following a performance of her song "La La."

"You make me wanna scream," she sang before the audience jeered.

Simpson was among a trio of halftime performers Tuesday night in a game that saw Southern California overwhelm Oklahoma 55-19. The camera cut away from her face as the booing began.

The negative vocal reaction came months after Simpson's performance on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," which revealed she used background vocal tracks. The mishap was later attributed to acid reflux disease.

However, the Orange Bowl crowd did have a reason to cheer. The Walt Disney Co. gave a theme park ticket to every fan. The giveaway, a promotion that could cost as much as \$4.3 million if all the tickets are used, is in honor of the 50th anniversary of its Disneyland park in California.



Simpson

## Dick Clark coming along after stroke

A month after his stroke, Dick Clark remains hospitalized in good spirits while working with rehabilitation specialists.

The "American Bandstand" icon watched Regis Philbin host "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve" 2004 from his hospital bed and said "he enjoyed the show and thought Regis did a wonderful professional job," Clark publicist Paul Shefrin said Wednesday.

As promised, Clark kissed his wife, Kari, at midnight, the spokesman added.

Clark, 75, was hospitalized at an undisclosed Burbank, Calif., hospital on Dec. 6 after suffering a mild stroke. Shefrin wouldn't disclose specifics.

There was no word on when Clark would go home. During the ABC-TV New Year's Eve show, fans held up "Get Well Dick" signs. Celebrities, including Madonna, John Travolta, Janet Jackson and others, were shown on videotape expressing best wishes.

## Price still right for Bob Barker

Bob Barker has agreed to continue as host of "The Price Is Right" for a record 34th season, CBS announced.

It was considering retiring this year and going into bodybuilding with the thought in mind of becoming governor of California, the 81-year-old Emmy-winning game-show host joked.

"But I decided to instead stay with the body I have and the job I have."

Barbara Bloom, senior vice president, daytime programs, said Barker and "The Price Is Right" are cornerstones of CBS daytime.

"We're thrilled that Bob has agreed to continue for another year, no doubt delighting his legions of fans across the country," Bloom said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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# Calculated risk-taker

## Michael Weatherly gave up the safety net of college to pursue career as an actor

BY LUANNE LEE

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

HOLLYWOOD—When actor Michael Weatherly was 12 years old, his parents sent him away to camp called "Camp Challenge." His mother wanted to toughen him up, he says.

"It was a three-week duration and I had to canoe, fight, build my own ax, learn to read a topographic map, compass and we had something called '24-hour survival' where they left us in the woods alone for 24 hours and you had to find food, build a lean-to. That changed me. It either changed me or it broke me," he says.

"But when I showed up [at camp] I was wearing a white turtleneck and white bell-bottoms. And I was from Connecticut and playing tennis at the country club. When I came back I was wearing hiking boots and blue jeans and I'd spent some time with some interesting people," he says.

It turns out it was a profitable move in more ways than one.

Now as the wisecracking Tony Di Nozzo on CBS' "NCIS," Weatherly, 36, has to combine those skills along with his impish sense of humor and considerable acting talent.

"He's a federal agent but he has very little regard for towing the line of political correctness or anything like that," he says.

"I love playing somebody who is kind of a rebel without a cause," says Weatherly.

Weatherly's son, 8-year-old August, is with him today at this Sunday morning breakfast. The two plan a secret outing after Weatherly is done, and the boy's clear enjoyment of his father's company, even if it does mean sitting still in a restaurant booth for an hour.

Weatherly, who played Logan on "Dark Angel," and the evil ex-husband on "Jesse," broke family tradition when he became an actor.

And while he underplays it, the subversive move was probably more costly than he admits.

"I grew up in Connecticut, went to an all-boys school and then went away to boarding school..." he says.

"So I grew up in a very narrow world... I felt that I didn't know enough about the world at large,

and I'm a people-watcher. I love to do that. I wanted to learn about other people. And so it's my endless fascination with what makes people tick."

Weatherly's parents divorced when he was 15. And he has a pack of half- and stepbiblings because each parent married three times. He also has one blood brother, William.

His father, who is the exclusive importer and distributor of the Swiss Army knife, wasn't pleased when Weatherly told him he wanted to quit college in his senior year.

"He lives in Jamaica half a year, and I called him in Jamaica and said, 'I'm going to move to New York, and I want to be an actor.' He said, 'You should think very carefully about what you are doing because you're closing doors but not finishing your education, and you're not allowing yourself the opportunity to become what you should one day become—which is probably a mature adult.'"

So when Weatherly blew out political science for primetime he was on his own.

"In the social hierarchy I took myself down a notch," he says with a nod. Glancing at August, he says, "This is probably not a great thing for future generations, but I didn't want to have a safety net. I thought if I have a safety net, I'll get a job in advertising or something and I won't feel as motivated. I really needed all that motivation... But I don't think it was ever my father's intention to put me on any kind of a trust fund. We don't have trust fund babies in our family. Once you're 18, you can go to college. And college is paid for, a gift of huge magnitude, but I looked at a gift horse in the mouth and became an actor."

There were some struggling years, but Weatherly managed to cop a Snickers commercial and eventually wound up on daytime's "Love," where he works with his ex-wife, actress Amelia Heinle.

He wouldn't mind marrying again, he says, and is dating a woman who works in the pharmaceutical industry and doesn't live in California.

He's also dated Rachel Hunter and Jessica Alba.

"I heard a great thing... about men and women. There are gardeners and there are flowers. You can have a gardener and a flower."

You can have a gardener and a gardener—might be a little boring but they're working hard. But if you have two flowers, nobody's taking care of the garden. Actors have a tendency to be flowers. So nobody's minding the garden."

Looking lovingly at August, he adds, "When I'm hanging out with you I'm sort of a gardener and you're the flower. You bring out the gardener in me."



CBS photo

## YOUR MONEY

## Loans heavy burden for some students

BY PETER SVENSSON

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brennan Taylor has a good job, but spending \$200 on his daughter's seventh birthday seems like "an awful lot."

"I'm trying to set a strict budget for the household," said Taylor, 34, a Madison, N.J., resident. "It's pretty stressful."

Taylor's finances and credit are hobbled by student loans — a fifth of his income every month goes toward paying down that debt.

Surging college costs have saddled many people like him with steep debt at the start of their professional lives.

A 2002 survey of recent graduates by student loan company Nellie Mae found that the average student loan burden for a bachelor's degree was \$18,900, up 66 percent from five years earlier.

Thanks to low interest rates and increased initial salaries, the average amount recent graduates were spending on debt repayment was just 7 percent of their annual incomes. That number that has been fairly unchanged for the last 10 years and is considered manageable.

But many graduates' debt burdens are well above average. As many who follow passions that aren't bankable, make a few financial missteps or are just plain unlucky can find their debts are out of control.



Brennan Taylor, left, sits with his daughter, Dirdre, and son, Crispin, right, and his wife, Krista White, at their home in Madison, N.J., on Monday. Taylor says he has to set a strict budget for the household because he is paying off his student loans and his wife is still studying for an advanced degree and racking up more debt.

Cherise Fung, 30, put herself through Cornell University after her parents died during her freshman year. Because she took several leaves of absence, it took her 10 years to graduate. And she was already dealing with financial problems when she returned to school from her last leave.

"I still haven't recovered from that one semester. And that was in 2001," the Flanders, N.J., resident said.

Now, Fung is finding that her degree in anthropology is not opening a lot of doors. Her expenses are hard to meet with the jobs she's been getting, mostly office work.

"There's times when I wonder if maybe I would have been better off getting a job and not bothering with college," she said.

Part of the problem is that a bachelor's degree doesn't always cut it in today's workplace.

"The bachelor's degree has become the new high school degree," said Tamara Draut at Demos, New York-based think tank. A graduate degree is necessary to reach get to the top level of more and more professions.

"It's happening in education, business, even social work," Draut said.

Taylor got a graduate degree in Internet strategy management four years ago. It cost him \$30,000 in loans, but has paid off with a job in Web publishing. Before that, he had "really crummy jobs."

Part of the reason he's still having trouble making ends meet is that his wife is working on a doctorate in anthropology and religion, a field where an advanced degree is practically necessary for work. She has racked up more than \$100,000 in debt and has two more years to go.

"What I'm dreading is when my wife's going to be done, because that's going to be huge, and her income probably isn't going to help a lot," Taylor said.

Among the effects of higher debt, according to the 2002 Nellie Mae survey: 38 percent of graduates reported delaying buying a home because of their loans, up from 25 percent in 1991, and 21 percent postponed having children, up from 12 percent in 1991.

Because he's often a month behind on student loan payments, Taylor has had enough debt problems that he doubts he'll ever be able to afford a house. Besides, he said, his wife's loans will be almost "mortgage scale."

As tuition costs and enrollment rose through the 1990s, grant money did not keep pace, meaning students have been shouldering an ever-increasing share of their education costs. While before, most were able to finance their studies with grants and part-time work, loans are now inescapable for many.

"This generation is the first to shoulder the costs of their college primarily through interest-bearing

## College debt deepens by degree

A 2002 survey of recent graduates found the average student loan for a bachelor's degree was \$18,900, up 66 percent from five years earlier.

## Borrowers in debt by degree

Master's ☐ \$10,000 or less  
☐ \$10,001 to \$20,000  
☐ \$20,001 to \$30,000  
☐ More than \$30,000

Bachelor's ☐ \$10,000 or lessPh.D. ☐ \$10,000 or lessProfessional ☐ \$10,000 or less

May not add to 100 due to rounding

Average lifetime earnings for college degrees compared to a high school diploma

Bachelor's ☐ \$1.3 millionMaster's ☐ \$1.7Ph.D. ☐ \$2.6Professional ☐ \$3.6

Source: 2002 National Student Loan Survey, Nellie Mae

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## WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES									
High	Low	Open	Close	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk High	52-wk Low	Volume
10,868.17	9,790.40	Dow Jones Industrials	10,867.81	-32.75	-0.3	-17.7	10,868.17	9,790.40	1,088,111
3,623.96	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,623.96	-25.04	-0.7	-1.81	3,623.96	2,743.46	1,088,111
332.79	259.08	Dow Jones Utilities	332.79	-3.02	-0.9	-1.84	332.79	259.08	1,088,111
7,273.18	6,521.33	NYSE Composite	7,273.18	-35.31	-0.5	-2.69	7,273.18	6,521.33	1,088,111
1,237.99	1,035.85	S&P 500	1,237.99	-13.28	-1.1	-1.36	1,237.99	1,035.85	1,088,111
2,931.50	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,931.50	-16.82	-0.6	-2.79	2,931.50	1,750.82	1,088,111
1,217.99	1,060.72	S&P 500	1,217.99	-13.28	-1.1	-1.36	1,217.99	1,060.72	1,088,111
666.29	545.29	S&P MidCap	666.29	-6.95	-1.0	-1.26	666.29	545.29	1,088,111
551.15	515.59	Russell 2000	551.15	-11.06	-2.0	-1.76	551.15	515.59	1,088,111
12,024.36	10,768.52	DJ Wilshire 2000	12,024.36	-58.8	-0.5	-2.83	12,024.36	10,768.52	1,088,111

NYSE									
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
IBM	10,868.17	IBM	10,868.17	IBM	10,868.17	IBM	10,868.17	IBM	10,868.17
Microsoft	2,931.50	Microsoft	2,931.50	Microsoft	2,931.50	Microsoft	2,931.50	Microsoft	2,931.50
Apple	1,237.99	Apple	1,237.99	Apple	1,237.99	Apple	1,237.99	Apple	1,237.99
Oracle	7,273.18	Oracle	7,273.18	Oracle	7,273.18	Oracle	7,273.18	Oracle	7,273.18
Amazon	3,623.96	Amazon	3,623.96	Amazon	3,623.96	Amazon	3,623.96	Amazon	3,623.96
Google	10,868.17	Google	10,868.17	Google	10,868.17	Google	10,868.17	Google	10,868.17
Yahoo	2,931.50	Yahoo	2,931.50	Yahoo	2,931.50	Yahoo	2,931.50	Yahoo	2,931.50
Alibaba	1,237.99	Alibaba	1,237.99	Alibaba	1,237.99	Alibaba	1,237.99	Alibaba	1,237.99
Facebook	7,273.18	Facebook	7,273.18	Facebook	7,273.18	Facebook	7,273.18	Facebook	7,273.18
Twitter	3,623.96	Twitter	3,623.96	Twitter	3,623.96	Twitter	3,623.96	Twitter	3,623.96
LinkedIn	10,868.17	LinkedIn	10,868.17	LinkedIn	10,868.17	LinkedIn	10,868.17	LinkedIn	10,868.17
Slack	2,931.50	Slack	2,931.50	Slack	2,931.50	Slack	2,931.50	Slack	2,931.50
Zoom	1,237.99	Zoom	1,237.99	Zoom	1,237.99	Zoom	1,237.99	Zoom	1,237.99
Dropbox	7,273.18	Dropbox	7,273.18	Dropbox	7,273.18	Dropbox	7,273.18	Dropbox	7,273.18
Box	3,623.96	Box	3,623.96	Box	3,623.96	Box	3,623.96	Box	3,623.96
OneDrive	10,868.17	OneDrive	10,868.17	OneDrive	10,868.17	OneDrive	10,868.17	OneDrive	10,868.17
SharePoint	2,931.50	SharePoint	2,931.50	SharePoint	2,931.50	SharePoint	2,931.50	SharePoint	2,931.50
Outlook	1,237.99	Outlook	1,237.99	Outlook	1,237.99	Outlook	1,237.99	Outlook	1,237.99
Word	7,273.18	Word	7,273.18	Word	7,273.18	Word	7,273.18	Word	7,273.18
Excel	3,623.96	Excel	3,623.96	Excel	3,623.96	Excel	3,623.96	Excel	3,623.96
PowerPoint	10,868.17	PowerPoint	10,868.17	PowerPoint	10,868.17	PowerPoint	10,868.17	PowerPoint	10,868.17
Access	2,931.50	Access	2,931.50	Access	2,931.50	Access	2,931.50	Access	2,931.50
Visual Basic	1,237.99	Visual Basic	1,237.99	Visual Basic	1,237.99	Visual Basic	1,237.99	Visual Basic	1,237.99
VBScript	7,273.18	VBScript	7,273.18	VBScript	7,273.18	VBScript	7,273.18	VBScript	7,273.18
ASP	3,623.96	ASP	3,623.96	ASP	3,623.96	ASP	3,623.96	ASP	3,623.96
PHP	10,868.17	PHP	10,868.17	PHP	10,868.17	PHP	10,868.17	PHP	10,868.17
Perl	2,931.50	Perl	2,931.50	Perl	2,931.50	Perl	2,931.50	Perl	2,931.50
Python	1,237.99	Python	1,237.99	Python	1,237.99	Python	1,237.99	Python	1,237.99
Java	7,273.18	Java	7,273.18	Java	7,273.18	Java	7,273.18	Java	7,273.18
C++	3,623.96	C++	3,623.96	C++	3,623.96	C++	3,623.96	C++	3,623.96
C#	10,868.17	C#	10,868.17	C#	10,868.17	C#	10,868.17	C#	10,868.17
JavaScript	2,931.50	JavaScript	2,931.50	JavaScript	2,931.50	JavaScript	2,931.50	JavaScript	2,931.50
jQuery	1,237.99	jQuery	1,237.99	jQuery	1,237.99	jQuery	1,237.99	jQuery	1,237.99
AngularJS	7,273.18	AngularJS	7,273.18	AngularJS	7,273.18	AngularJS	7,273.18	AngularJS	7,273.18
React	3,623.96	React	3,623.96	React	3,623.96	React	3,623.96	React	3,623.96
VueJS	10,868.17	VueJS	10,868.17	VueJS	10,868.17	VueJS	10,868.17	VueJS	10,868.17
Svelte	2,931.50	Svelte	2,931.50	Svelte	2,931.50	Svelte	2,931.50	Svelte	2,931.50
EmberJS	1,237.99	EmberJS	1,237.99	EmberJS	1,237.99	EmberJS	1,237.99	EmberJS	1,237.99
BackboneJS	7,273.18	BackboneJS	7,273.18	BackboneJS	7,273.18	BackboneJS	7,273.18	BackboneJS	7,273.18
UnderscoreJS	3,623.96	UnderscoreJS	3,623.96	UnderscoreJS	3,623.96	UnderscoreJS	3,623.96	UnderscoreJS	3,623.96
MomentJS	10,868.17	MomentJS	10,868.17	MomentJS	10,868.17	MomentJS	10,868.17	MomentJS	10,868.17
Lodash	2,931.50	Lodash	2,931.50	Lodash	2,931.50	Lodash	2,931.50	Lodash	2,931.50
jQuery UI	1,237.99	jQuery UI	1,237.99	jQuery UI	1,237.99	jQuery UI	1,237.99	jQuery UI	1,237.99
jQuery Mobile	7,273.18	jQuery Mobile	7,273.18	jQuery Mobile	7,273.18	jQuery Mobile	7,273.18	jQuery Mobile	7,273.18
jQuery Validation	3,623.96	jQuery Validation	3,623.96	jQuery Validation	3,623.96	jQuery Validation	3,623.96	jQuery Validation	3,623.96
jQuery Form	10,868.17	jQuery Form	10,868.17	jQuery Form	10,868.17	jQuery Form	10,868.17	jQuery Form	10,868.17
jQuery Tablesorter	2,931.50	jQuery Tablesorter	2,931.50	jQuery Tablesorter	2,931.50	jQuery Tablesorter	2,931.50	jQuery Tablesorter	2,931.50
jQuery UI Datepicker	1,237.99	jQuery UI Datepicker	1,237.99	jQuery UI Datepicker	1,237.99	jQuery UI Datepicker	1,237.99	jQuery UI Datepicker	1,237.99
jQuery UI Slider	7,273.18	jQuery UI Slider	7,273.18	jQuery UI Slider	7,273.18	jQuery UI Slider	7,273.18	jQuery UI Slider	7,273.18
jQuery UI Sortable	3,623.96	jQuery UI Sortable	3,623.96	jQuery UI Sortable	3,623.96	jQuery UI Sortable	3,623.96	jQuery UI Sortable	3,623.96
jQuery UI Draggable	10,868.17	jQuery UI Draggable	10,868.17	jQuery UI Draggable	10,868.17	jQuery UI Draggable	10,868.17	jQuery UI Draggable	10,868.17
jQuery UI Resizable	2,931.50	jQuery UI Resizable	2,931.50	jQuery UI Resizable	2,931.50	jQuery UI Resizable	2,931.50	jQuery UI Resizable	2,931.50
jQuery UI Autocomplete	1,237.99	jQuery UI Autocomplete	1,237.99	jQuery UI Autocomplete	1,237.99	jQuery UI Autocomplete	1,237.99	jQuery UI Autocomplete	1,237.99
jQuery UI Progressbar	7,273.18	jQuery UI Progressbar	7,273.18	jQuery UI Progressbar	7,273.18	jQuery UI Progressbar	7,273.18	jQuery UI Progressbar	7,273.18
jQuery UI Dialog	3,623.96	jQuery UI Dialog	3,623.96	jQuery UI Dialog	3,623.96	jQuery UI Dialog	3,623.96	jQuery UI Dialog	3,623.96
jQuery UI Tabs	10,868.17	jQuery UI Tabs	10,868.17	jQuery UI Tabs	10,868.17	jQuery UI Tabs	10,868.17	jQuery UI Tabs	10,868.17
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jQuery UI Menu	1,237.99	jQuery UI Menu	1,237.99	jQuery UI Menu	1,237.99	jQuery UI Menu	1,237.99	jQuery UI Menu	1,237.99
jQuery UI Button	7,273.18	jQuery UI Button	7,273.18	jQuery UI Button	7,273.18	jQuery UI Button	7,273.18	jQuery UI Button	7,273.18
jQuery UI Spinner	3,623.96	jQuery UI Spinner	3,623.96	jQuery UI Spinner	3,623.96	jQuery UI Spinner	3,623.96	jQuery UI Spinner	3,623.96
jQuery UI Timepicker	10,868.17	jQuery UI Timepicker	10,868.17	jQuery UI Timepicker	10,868.17	jQuery UI Timepicker	10,868.17	jQuery UI Timepicker	10,868.17



## SATURDAY EVENING / JANUARY 8, 2005

MOVIES

• SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P Headline News	ESPN News	According to Jim House for Sale Devil on a meaty house.	Half & Half The family holiday dinner.	CSI: Miami Deadline! A newspaper reporter witnesses a murder in Miami's drug district. (CC)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Lowdown": Detectives search for a motive when an ADA is killed. (CC)	Headline News	Saturday Night Live (CC)				
7	AFN-AT That's So Raven Raven is an ad.	Switched! Michael and David	Radio Free Roscoe	American Adventure	Access Hollywood (CC)		WWE Raw	According to Jim House for Sale	Half & Half (CC)	CSI: Miami Deadline! (CC)		
8	NEWS Harbort with Chris Matthews	The O'Reilly Factor	The O'Reilly Factor		Outline NBC (CC)		CNN Saturday Morning	Economy Watch Current state of the economy indicates news.		CNN Saturday Morning		
9	SPTS 5:00 NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Minnesota Timberwolves. From the Target Center in Minneapolis.			ESPN Center		Inside the NFL (CC)	NBA Basketball in Los Angeles. (Live)	Houston Rockets at Los Angeles Lakers. From Staples Center.		NFL Live		
10	SPTS What Not to Wear Laura Miranda! "La" is a gets wardrobe help.	Trading Spaces			Tru Calling "Star Crossed": A pair of young lovers killed in a car accident appeal to try to help. (CC)	1-800-Missing "White Whale": A serial killer is on the loose. (CC)	Friends Phoebe buffers out her feelings for a contest. (CC)	Seinfeld Jerry challenges gang to a contest. (CC)	The Real World Miami	Punk'd		
11	AFN-FM Family Oddparents Rugrats (CC)	*** "Shrek" 2001. Fantasy Voices of Mike Myers.	*** "North" 1994. Elton John, Bruce Willis, Jon Lovitz.	*** "Along Came a Spider" 2001. Morgan Freeman, Mandy Patinkin.	*** "Glory" 1989. Drama. Matthew Broderick, Denzel Washington, Morgan Freeman. A young Union officer leads an all-black regiment. (R) (CC)	My So-Called Life		The Simpsons		The Simpsons		
12	AFM *** "Raiders" 1990. Suspense. Lee Remick, John Wood. Med-school students make tips past the threshold of death. (R) (CC)						(05) *** "The Big Chill" 1983. Drama. Tom Berenger, Glenn Close, William Hurt. A funeral reveals college friends from the 1960s. (R) (CC)					
24	PBS Arthur's Perfect Christmas (CC) (DVD)	Sing We Now of Christmas: A Festival of Carols (CC)	On Stage at the Kennedy Center: A Holiday Concert for the Troops With Harmin Hamisch (CC)	Christmas at Baylor (CC)		Sing We Now of Christmas: A Festival of Carols (CC)	Austin City Limits Country singer Vince Gill mixes modern tunes with country traditions. (CC)					
25	SHOW *** "Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams" (2002). Adventure. Antonio Banderas, Gade Guguio, Alexa Vega. Young spies and their parents search for a powerful device. PG (CC)						*** "Barbershop" (2002). Comedy. Ice Cube, Anthony Ray, J. J. Abate. A barbershop owner confronts his establishment. PG-13 (CC)					
26	A&E American Justice For Love or Money? A woman manipulates her lover to kill her husband. (CC)	City Confidential "Pick City": A guy marries a shot deal's mining town. (CC)	*** "Secret of a Woman" (1992). Drama. Al Pacino, Chris O'Donnell, James Rebhorn. Premiere: A blind man introduces a student to life's pleasures. (CC)					Growing Up Gotti The Gotti clan's highlights from the show. (CC)				
28	DISC To Be Announced	Storm Warning!	Anatomy of Disaster	To Be Announced			To Be Announced					
29	TFC Star Circle Quest (45) Magandang Gabi, Bayan		Home Along the Highway	(15) Kontrobersyal	News	MTV Live	(15) Magandang Gabi, Bayan					
30	CNN+ Larry King Live (CC)	CNN World News	World Sport	CNN World News	Ebizasia	CNN World News	World Sport	CNN World News	World Sport	CNN World News	Talk Asia	
31	GOLF *** Mercedes Championship	Buddie Down Under	*** Golf Central	*** European PGA Golf	Algarve Open de Portugal - Final Round.							
32	TLC Trading Spaces "Little Rock: Greenbriar Valley Women's shelter in Little Rock, Ark. (N)		Trading Spaces "Unlabeled Outtakes and bloopers of some of the crazy moments of the show."	Trading Spaces "Little Rock: Greenbriar Valley Women's shelter in Little Rock, Ark. (N)			Trading Spaces "Unlabeled Outtakes and bloopers of some of the crazy moments of the show."					
33	TOON Atomic Betty	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	To Be Announced	Bugs & Daffy Show	Scoby-Do, Where Are You?		Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon shorts.				
34	ANPL Planet's Funniest Animals Hilarious video clips of animals during the holiday season. (CC)	City Slickers	Amazing Animal Videos Goo Samanins save a mouse, polar bears swim with a Christmas tree. (CC)	Chappelle's Show "Blind white su... Kanye West, Mos Def, and his puppy."	Chappelle's Show "Blind white su... Kanye West, Mos Def, and his puppy."		Chappelle's Show "Blind white su... Kanye West, Mos Def, and his puppy."					
36	COM Bear Wars Top address reintroducing grizzly bears to the Bitterroot Mountain range in Montana. (CC)	Twenty Years With the Dolphins	WWE Velocity Scheduled Undertaker takes on Hecstehreck. (N) (CC)	*** "The World Is Not Enough" (1999). Action. Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Marceau, Robert Carlyle. James Bond must protect a murdered industrialist's daughter. (CC)			She Spies "The Martini Shot": The team saves a sexy supermodel engaged in spying. (CC)					
40	FX Stargate SG-1 "Revelation": SG-1 discovers an oasis of life on a desolate planet. (CC)	The Outcasts "The Sentinel": A police officer's life in a few hours. (CC)	Cops A plane crash, a lost boy and his puppy. (CC)	Cops A plane crash, a lost boy and his puppy. (CC)				Mad TV "Holiday Show": Holiday-themed sketches. (CC)				
44	BET Coming to the Stage	Rap City Top 10	Source Awards 2004	Performances by hip-hop artists.								
46	COURT The Simpsons (CC)	Dr. Ramesh Richard	Dark Angel (CC)	To Be Announced								
48	STR-UD (CC)											
50	LIFE "Identity Theft: The Michelle Brown Story" (2004). Documentary. Kimberly Williams-Paisley, Annabella Sciorra, Jason London. A woman faces a nightmare battle to restore her good name. (CC)	*** "Scrooged" (1998). Comedy. Bill Murray, Karen Allen, Carol Kane. A heartless corporate executive learns the folly of his ways. (CC)	Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story (2003). Drama. Thora Birch, Kelly Ryan, Michael Riley. The homeless daughter of drug addicts turns her life around. (CC)	3rd Rock From the Sun Politically correct. (CC)	3rd Rock From the Sun Politically correct. (CC)							
51	ABCFM (5:00) "The Christmas List" (1997) Minnie Driver. A store clerk gets every item on her extravagant wish list.	Biblical Disasters Whether biblical accounts of disasters are fact or fiction, and how these accounts provide insight into modern-day catastrophes. (CC)										
53	HIST Evening (5:15) Movie	(15) Movie										
57	STW-M (5:30) In the Wake of Vikings	Into the Unknown	Next Wave Scientists study volcanic threat.	*** Power Climbers Journey to the peak of the world's fifth highest mountain.	Game for It	In the Wake of Vikings Sea kayakers take on the remote Arctic of northern Norway. (CC)	Into the Unknown	Adventure Challenge	Action Asia Challenge 2004 From Macau.			
59	MTV Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball	Real World Road Rules Challenge: Paintball
60	NICK SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Zim	Tomato Town	Action League Now	WOW Weekend Marathon: Rugrats Angelica Episodes of popular programming.	The Amanda Show	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	The Wild Thornberrys (CC)	Hey Arnold! (CC)			

## JAPAN TV

**Afternoon**  
12:00 Japan Senior High School Sports: Semifinals (4)  
1:30 Traditional Arts of Japan: Dance (30r)  
2:00 Japan Senior High School Sports: Semifinals (4)  
3:35 Japan Senior High School Soccer Highlights (4)  
4:30 News on the Lions (30r)  
4:30 News (1)  
7:00 Japan Senior High School Sports: Semifinals (4)  
9:00 Hong Kong Movie (20:01): Shaolin Soccer (15:40r)  
12:55 E.R. VIII (1)  
1:45 Japan Major Leagues: Hideo Matsui/Hideo Nomo (1)  
2:26 Japan Pro Boxing (4)

3:02 Cooking: Japanese New Year Dishes (1)  
3:20 British-French Movie (2000): The Man Who Cried (1:40:12)  
3:25 NFL Digest (4)  
3:45 Classical Music (12)

## JAPAN TV-BS7

**Morning**  
6:00 World News  
7:00 World News  
8:00 World News Hour  
9:00 World News Hour  
10:00 World Reports (r)  
11:50 CNN News  
**Afternoon**  
2:00 Men's Volleyball V-League: Panasonic Panthers vs. Osaka Sakai Blazers  
4:10 X-Games 2004  
4:40 Football World Cup  
5:15 Figure Skating GP Final: Exhibitions  
**Evening**  
7:00 NHK News  
1:15 U.S. News (1998): The Hi-Lo Country (2:00)

6:10 85 Documentary: The Doctor, The Deplotted Uranium and Dring Children (1)  
7:10 NBA: Miami Heat vs. Portland Trail Blazers (r)  
9:10 NFL Weekly  
12:10 X-Games 2004  
12:20 NFL Weekly  
1:10 NBA: Miami Heat vs. Portland Trail Blazers (r)  
3:10 What's On Asia  
3:35 Worldwide Amazing Sports  
4:10 What's On Japan  
9:10 NFL Weekly  
4:40 Football World Cup  
**JAPAN TV-BS11**  
**Evening**  
7:00 NHK News  
1:15 U.S. News (1998): The Hi-Lo Country (2:00)

## WOWOW

**Morning**  
8:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek  
9:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Investigation - Miami 2  
**Afternoon**  
1:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Chapped Lip  
5:30 U.S. Movie (2002): Strapped (4:45)  
7:00 Cinema: Splitz  
7:30 Screen  
8:00 Baseball: Boys Special/Live at SUMMER SONIC  
10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Underworld (2:05)  
12:00 TV Series: Friends: The Best #3  
12:45 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (live)  
**Evening**  
8:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Moonlight Mile (2:05)  
10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Underworld (2:05)  
12:00 TV Series: Friends: The Best #3  
12:45 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (live)  
**MTV**  
**Morning**  
6:00 Wake Up!  
8:00 Classic 30's  
9:00 Japan Chart Top 30  
**Evening**  
12:00 Music Download Chart Top 10  
1:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda  
3:30 Pimp My Ride  
3:30 America on the Border  
4:00 On-Air Chart Top 30  
4:30 News  
7:00 Cinema: Splitz  
7:30 Screen  
8:00 Baseball: Boys Special/Live at SUMMER SONIC  
10:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Underworld (2:05)  
12:00 TV Series: Friends: The Best #3  
12:45 Spanish Soccer Liga Espanola (live)  
3:30 After Hours

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## Angry over re-up bonuses

I read in Stars and Stripes about the re-enlistment bonuses the reservists and National Guard are getting and I'm in the military. I'm active-duty Army and I'm extremely upset about that.

The government is dishing out all this money to keep reservists and National Guardsmen in the military. What about the active-duty soldiers it already has? I can have the same military occupational specialty as a reservist and not get the same bonus he does.

The government isn't giving active duty any incentives to re-enlist. I see that as a slap in the face. We do our job 365 days a year, pull duty and work overtime. Unless the reserve is activated, the only time reservists do the same job we do is one week-end a month, two weeks out of the year.

All the focus is on giving the reserves incentive but not the active-duty soldiers don't mean anything. It seems it would be more cost-effective to try to keep the active-duty soldiers you already have than to let them leave the Army and have to train new soldiers.

The Army is composed of active duty and reserve. I think the government should do what is necessary to keep both sides of the service in.

For example, why aren't active-duty soldiers in Qatar eligible for the re-enlistment bonus? We are deployed in a danger zone for a year like everyone else. Granted, we aren't being mortared every day or have to worry about roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades like our fellow soldiers up north, but our lives are in danger just like everyone else's. Someone has to be in Qatar. We are supposed to be an Army of One.

SpC. Deandra Cooke  
Camp As Sayiliyah, Qatar

## Southern hospitality evident

I was taking my daughter to school this morning, and at the red light I looked at the vehicle next to mine, which had a yellow "support the troops" ribbon on it. That got me to thinking about the war in Iraq, and I decided I wanted to send a letter of encouragement to the troops.

I think I represent the average American. The things I want the troops to know are: In

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my part of the country, from Alabama to Louisiana, cars and trucks are plastered with "support the troops" ribbons. Every day I and countless others pray for the troops' safety and that God will grant them victory over our enemies and the enemies of all freedom-loving people. The jobs U.S. servicemen are doing are thankless ones, but I want them to know that all of us in the States appreciate what they are doing and think about the troops daily. Keep up the good work.

William Sanders  
Florence, Ala.

## Media can help win war

To watch the media and read the papers over the past two years, one would get the distinct impression that no amount of military might can win the war in Iraq.

All of our soldiers are in constant danger everywhere in country. Coalition victories over the insurgents (some the highly successful assault on Fallujah) are few and are so insignificant that they aren't worth reporting.

Even when victories are reported, the reporting tends to concentrate on negative as-

pects of the battle (i.e. U.S. losses, or the amount of insurgents who escaped).

It's been some time since I saw a newspaper headline that listed something other than U.S. deaths. I want to congratulate Stars and Stripes and The Associated Press for publishing an article ("25 insurgents killed in assault on U.S. post," Jan. 1, Jan. 2 editing that shows a battle with insurgents in a relatively positive light.

If there were more such articles, public opinion about the war would be very different from what it is right now. I believe that if there had been more articles like this when the insurgency was just starting, it would be nowhere near as strong as it is now.

The insurgents gain information from newspapers and television. It's a simple and effective way of finding out how successful their attacks are -- as well as finding potential weaknesses to exploit, not to mention a useful recruiting tool for the insurgents.

If the media instead concentrated on how ineffective the insurgent attacks usually are, concentrated on enemy losses and on coalition losses, and quit violating operations security, then the insurgents would have a much harder time finding recruits and funding.

The media can play an active role in winning this thing, and it wouldn't be that hard to do. Getting on our side of the fight would probably make people trust the media more, as well.

SpC. Ken Warner  
Logistics Support Area Anconda, Iraq

## U.S. isn't 'stingy' with aid

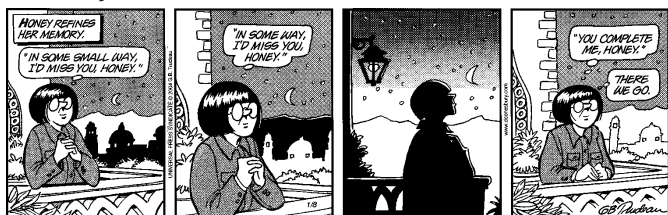
The attack on President Bush from CNN and the rest of the left-leaning media is really hurtful ... and a shame.

To accuse the United States of being stingy (in terms of financial aid for tsunami victims) is a character attack that is, if nothing else, unfair! The United States is generous to a fault when it comes to a disaster anywhere in the world, regardless of the political bent of a country.

I might add that when we had our own disaster from hurricanes a few months ago in Florida and Louisiana I do not recall C-S4S landing with blankets and water from other countries. It was our disaster and we were, as usual, on our own.

Richard H. Freese  
Stuttgart, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



BY BRUCE TINSLEY

## Mallard Fillmore



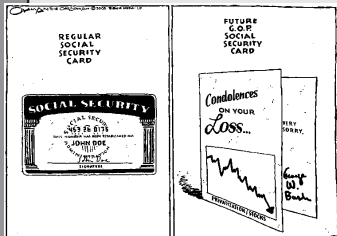
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AND LOSING YOUR LETTERS?  
WE'LL DO IT NO MORE!  
(THOUGH WE'LL PROBABLY DO IT NO LESS.)"

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# Looking at the news

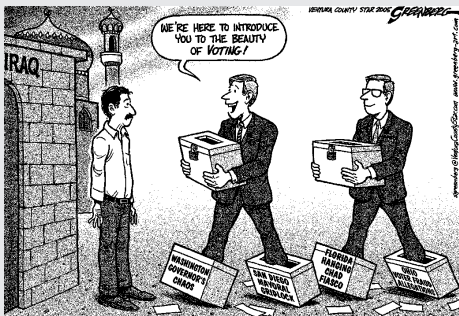
A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



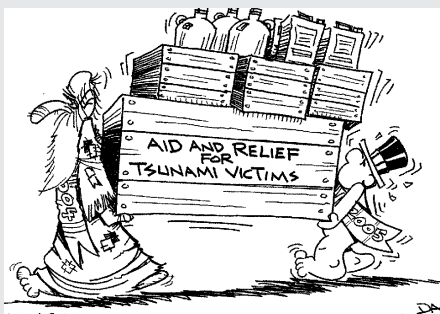
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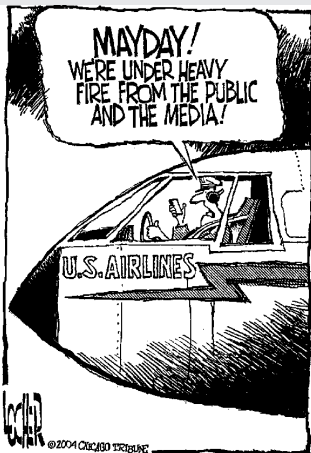
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CHARLIE DANIEL/Scripta Howard



DICK LOCHER/Tribune Media Services

## Agencies bid for reef

**CA** VENTURA — Federal and local agencies want to build an artificial reef between Mussel Shoals and Sealiff to combat beach erosion.

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment, known as BEACON, and the Army Corps of Engineers applied to the California Coastal Commission to build the \$2 million reef at the old Mobil Oil Piers site.

The commission could schedule a public hearing soon. If the project is approved, construction is possible as early as this summer.

## 'Dixie' causes stir

**WI** MADISON — A high school band's performance of an Elvis Presley hit during the Senate's inaugural ceremony has drawn a complaint from a newly elected member because it included a version of "Dixie."

The Richland Center High School band played a version of "An American Trilogist" at the Capitol — a song that mixes "Dixie" with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the spiritual "All My Trials."

To many blacks, "Dixie" is a symbol of racism and slavery. Sen. Spencer Cogges, who is black, said he was shocked to hear the strains of the Southern anthem and complained in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Dale Schultz.

"Whether the slight was intentional or not, the selection was not appropriate," he wrote. "It is unfortunate that this special day was marred by such an unnecessary event."

Schultz said he wasn't aware of every musical selection the band prepared for the event and said he would apologize. "If Sen. Cogges felt offended, I would want to extend my hand in apology," he said.

## Free ride to jail

**LA** SLIDELL — A tourist who called 911 to demand a ride to the bus station instead got a lift to jail.

The St. Tammany Parish sheriff's office said James Brown of St. Louis called from a pay phone and threatened to kill someone if he didn't get a ride to the bus station. When deputies arrived, officials said they found the man intoxicated and belligerent. He was booked on charges of misuse of 911.

## Adirondack protection

**NY** ALBANY — The state agreed to protect 104,000 acres of northern Adirondack timberlands from development and provide public recreational access, Gov. George Pataki said. The parcels in Clinton and Franklin counties represent the holdings of Domtar Industries in the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park.

The deal is expected to add 20,000 acres directly to state forests and limited access to another 84,000 acres for hiking, snowmobiling and some ATV use.

## Hispanic baby boom

**AZ** PHOENIX — More than 39,000 babies were born to



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Hispanic women in Arizona in 2003, compared with about 38,800 babies born to Anglo women that year, according to state statistics.

The numbers reflect the state's rapidly growing Hispanic population.

"Every demographer I've talked to thinks the majority of Arizona's population will be Hispanic by 2035 or 2045," said Loui Olivas, a professor at Arizona State University.

## Controlling wild wolves

**ID** BOISE — Idaho and Montana will get more authority to manage gray wolves under a new rule adopted by the federal government, wildlife officials announced.

The rule, which takes effect Feb. 2, gives the states and private landowners more control in curbing wolf attacks on livestock, domestic animals and wild game herds.

Ed Bangs, wolf recovery team leader for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said the new rule would especially help private landowners by allowing wolves to be killed without prior written approval if ranchers can prove the animals are harassing livestock.

## Fake nurse investigated

**TX** DALLAS — A man who worked without a nursing license at a retirement home is under investigation by state regula-



## Arizona snow angel

Alister Marshall, 4, makes a snow angel in Thorpe Park in Flagstaff, Ariz. Marshall came to Flagstaff with his family from Phoenix to play in the snow.

tors after his 10-year health care career began unraveling through a tip.

Administrators at Brentwood Place nursing home told The Dallas Morning News that they were cooperating with representatives from the Medicaid fraud control unit of the Texas attorney general's office in the investigation of David Wayne Rhodes.

## Skier dies on slopes

**VT** KILLINGTON — A 27-year-old Massachusetts man died after falling on one of Killington Resort's most difficult trails and then sliding out of control into trees.

Vermont State Police said Andrew Begley of Cambridge, Mass., apparently lost control while skiing on the Double Dipper trail.

Lt. David Covell said that Begley slid "a significant distance," going off the Double Dipper trail through a roped-off area where Killington snow gins were stored and into the Big Dipper trail before a tree stopped him.

"It looks possible that he may have collided with some equipment in that initial closed area he entered," Covell said.

## Justice sues colleagues

**OK** OKLAHOMA CITY — A member of Oklahoma's highest court got passed over for chief justice, and now he's suing his eight colleagues because he thinks they skipped him because of his age.

Justice Marian P. Opala, 83, filed the lawsuit in federal district court, charging he was discriminated against when his fellow justices changed a rule to allow the chief justice to serve consecutive terms. The post had been rotated every two years.

The rule change in November allowed Chief Justice Joseph M. Watt to succeed himself. Opala would have been in line to lead the court.

In his lawsuit, Opala described himself as in good health and of sound mind. He said his age was "a significant factor" in being passed over for chief justice, a post that carries with it "ceremonial duties" and a bigger paycheck. A justice earns an annual salary of \$107,000, the chief justice \$110,000.

## West Nile cases down

**NM** SANTA FE — New Mexico had 88 confirmed cases of West Nile virus in 2004, including four deaths, according to the state Department of Health.

The total was far less than the 209 cases confirmed in 2003 when four elderly people died of the infection.

## Bobcat job boost

**ND** BISMARCK — Gov. John Hoeven's State of the State speech to open the legislative session came with an announcement that the Bobcat company plans to add 100 jobs in Bismarck.

The North Dakota company makes skid-steer loaders and other heavy equipment. Bobcat employs more than 2,600 people in the state and has an annual payroll of more than \$1 billion, Hoeven said.



## Mother Nature at work

A water spout appears just off the coast of Palos Verdes, Calif., during a break in a winter storm.



## Through the fog

A train travels in the fog across a bridge spanning the Arkansas River in Fort Smith, Ark. The warmer air temperatures hovering over the cooler water created the foggy mist.



## Wading in the water

Audrey Morrison, left, and her sister, Britney, play in the water just off shore at Lake Nicol in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The outing started as a fishing trip but turned into wading in the lake when the fishing line became snagged. The two were accompanied by their father, Jerrold Morrison, and grandmother Katherine Morrison.





Braving the winter

A woman braces against the cold and blowing snow as she walks down 17th Street in downtown Denver.



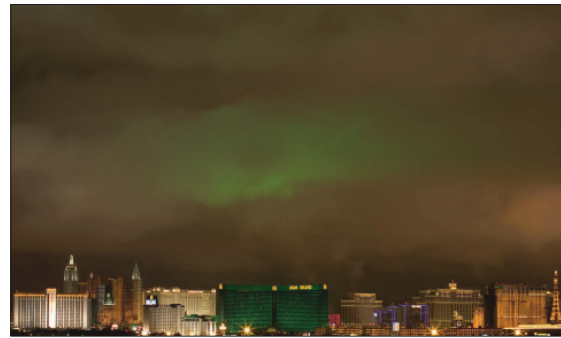
Letting off steam

Steam rises from Mount St. Helens in Washington state.



Later, gator

Todd Hardwick, right, from Pesky Critters, along with officers from Fish and Wildlife and a crew of firefighters remove a large alligator from Wagner Creek alongside Cedars Medical Center in Miami.



Vegas afterglow

Lights from hotel-casinos on the Strip reflect on low-passing clouds during a storm in Las Vegas.

## Historic hat purchased

**AK** ANCHORAGE — A rare spruce root hat adorned with beads and sea lion whiskers will stay in the state after its purchase by two Alaska museums.

The Alutiq Museum of Kodiak and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art combined to buy the Alutiq spruce root hunting hat from a Juneau family, which had offered the artifact Dec. 6 at a Bonhams and Butterfields Auction in San Francisco. The price was \$160,250.

"This is the first one that is going to be here in Alaska," said Sven Hanksen Jr., executive director of the Alutiq Museum.

The Alutiq people traditionally lived between Southcentral Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula. Most were on Kodiak Island, America's second-largest island after Hawaii.

## Asbestos closes school

**HI** HONOLULU — Students at King Intermediate School along Windward Oahu are going to get an even longer break from classes that previously expected, public school officials said.

The school was closed Dec. 15, three days before winter recess was set to begin, so campus buildings could be cleaned of asbestos.

The school was to reopen after winter vacation and intersession.

But state Schools Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto said imminent weather delays testing results and any subsequent cleaning that could be necessary.

Classes at King Intermediate are now set to resume Jan. 13th, she said.

## Don't forget the horses

**KY** LOUISVILLE — A group of Kentucky horse breeders and farm owners has launched a billboard campaign showing how tenuous the state's claim as the horse capital could become.

Billboards along a stretch of Interstate 64 in Louisville proclaim, "Welcome to New York, Horse Capital of the World."

The Kentucky Equine Education Project is paying for eight to 10 billboards in Louisville and Lexington and several more in Frankfort over the next few months.

Clara Horn Shadwick, KEE's executive director, said the billboards are part of the group's goal of educating the state about the economic importance of horses in Kentucky.

"It's an extension of KEE's educational phase, which is to make the point pretty forcefully and bluntly that our state can't take the industry for granted," she said.

## Bartender held hostage

**NY** GOWANDA — A western New York man said to be grieving the death of a family member took a bartender hostage and opened fire on police during a four-hour standoff that ended only after he passed out drunk, authorities said.

Dale Covert was facing a charge of attempted murder after firing a single round at a Gowanda police officer, State Police Maj. Michael Manning said.

Police responded to the Palm Gardens restaurant lounge 30 miles south of Buffalo around 3

p.m. after receiving a report of a man brandishing a gun inside the establishment, where Covert was holding a female bartender.

Shortly after 6:30 p.m., the bartender emerged from the bar, unharmed. Covert, who was drinking heavily, then passed out, Manning said.

## Politicians admit bribe

**TX** BROWNSVILLE — Two former Willacy County commissioners pleaded guilty to accepting bribes for their votes on federal prison contracts.

Jose Jimenez, 67, of Sebastian, and Israel Tamez, 58, of Raymondville, waived indictment and admitted accepting more than \$10,000 each from companies competing for work on the Willacy County Adult Correctional Center. The \$14.5 million prison was being built to house federal inmates.

Federal prosecutors say the men accepted the bribes between June 2000 and March 2003.

Both men are free on \$50,000 personal recognizance bonds. They have agreed to cooperate with an ongoing investigation by the FBI, Texas Rangers, and Willacy County Sheriff's Department.

Each faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine at their April 11 sentencing.

## Help for drug addicts

**KY** PIKEVILLE — Gov. Ernie Fletcher unveiled a \$9.5 million initiative to help pay for the construction and operation of 10 recovery centers for drug addicts.

The effort would focus on homeless people, Fletcher said he expects two of the centers to be in eastern Kentucky, where police are combating what has been called an epidemic of prescription drug abuse.

## N.J. losing millionaires

**NJ** NEWARK — The number of millionaires in New Jersey declined, an annual report showed.

The report said 8,300 Garden State residents reported taxable income of \$1 million or more in 2002, the fewest since 1998 and far short of the peak of 12,365 posted in 2000.

The report also showed that total income in New Jersey declined for the second straight year.

## Musket shoot will go on

**NC** CHARLOTTE — A teenager was killed during a rural town's New Year's tradition of firing vintage black-powder muskets into the air, but town officials declared that the centuries-old ritual would continue to be celebrated.

During the revelry, a rifle exploded and pieces of the barrel struck 18-year-old Matthew K. Shook in the side of the head.

"There's no effort in place here to end the practice," Mayor Bob Austell said in a telephone interview. "This is something that's been going on in Cherryville for more than 200 years. We have grandsons firing off muskets that once belonged to their grandfathers."

Austell conceded, however, it was time to review safety standards for the "New Year's Shoot" in Cherryville, a town of 5,400 about 40 miles west of Charlotte.

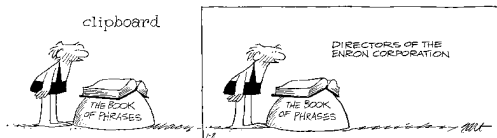
Stories and photos from wire service



Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



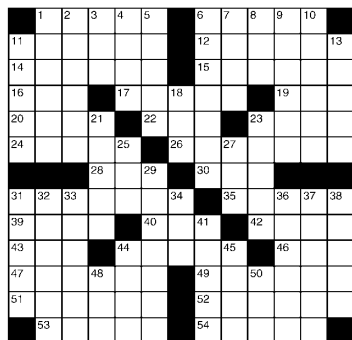
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

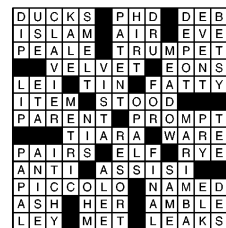
- 1 1997 movie starring Shaq  
6 Code name?  
11 Balanced  
12 Horrific  
14 Modest  
15 "That Scrambled Word Game"  
16 Praise in rhyme  
17 High points  
19 Aachen article  
20 React to revile  
22 Part of H.M.S.  
23 Encourage  
24 Degree, to Emeril  
26 Swears it's true  
28 Journal  
30 Verily  
31 Mariachi instrument  
35 Tapestry  
39 Oodles  
40 "— Miserables"  
42 Past curfew  
43 Roulette bet  
44 Annual visitor  
46 Carton  
47 Fall  
49 Speak unclearly  
51 Ogling one  
52 Makes use of  
53 Australian river

- 54 Supermarket lineup

## Down

- 1 Tiny apartment  
2 Least ferocious  
3 Recede  
4 Ms. Fitzgerald  
5 Bloodsucker  
6 Sovereign power  
7 Piece of work  
8 Turntable rate (Abbr.)  
9 Tools for duels  
10 Mama Cass  
11 Cuit  
13 Imparts temporarily  
18 Hamm of soccer  
21 Brilliance  
23 Lustrous gem  
25 Ad — committee  
27 Afternoon social  
29 Exhibition area  
31 Mail components  
32 Unga residents  
33 Cager nicknamed "Worm"  
34 Neptune's realm  
36 VW model  
37 Coral formations (Abbr.)  
38 Male and female  
41 Poison dogwood  
44 Ball of yarn  
45 Capital of Fiji  
48 Kinsman  
50 Scratch

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 1-8 CRYPTOQUIP

MG GSN TVA, ANQMVEN UN  
YOLN GSN QYMFFOQ  
FHRZUJOGNJ, UN MYY

IJMRL M QHYI THJGNJ.  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF AN ACTOR IS ELIMINATED FROM A FILM'S CAST, I SUPPOSE HE'S OUT OF THE PICTURE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: F equals S

# Some men aren't marrying type

**Dear Abby:** I have been dating a very special man named "Josh" for three years. He has had only one long-term relationship, which produced two children.

My problem is Josh does not believe in marriage. I do not believe in living with someone, and I do believe in marriage.

I have asked Josh for a commitment on several occasions, and I always get a negative response. Am I being strange alone, and what should I do?

**—Downhearted in Ohio**  
Dear Downhearted: You're not being strong enough. Josh has been honest with you — he's not interested in marriage. In order for a marriage to happen, both parties must want to make a commitment. The fact that he has fathered not one, but two children and didn't marry the mother should be a clue. He's not the marrying kind.

If marriage is important to you, end this romance and find a

partner whose goals are similar to your own. You already have devoted more time to this campaign than you should have.

**Dear Abby:** I have a 2-year-old son who is scared to death of getting his hair cut. In

the past, I have done it with electric clippers on the advice of my wife's hairstylist. Hearing a small child cry and scream is the worst experience in the world. I got so upset the last time that I told my wife I refuse to cut his hair again, because it is so hard on both of us. I suggested we wait until he is older to take him to the barber.

My wife insists that I cut his hair because it is "plucking on her nerves." I feel it's too soon and not worth the terror he goes through. Should I stand my ground, or am I too soft-hearted?

**Dear Dad:** Take your son to a hairdresser who is used to work-

ing with children. If necessary, hold the child on his hip while the stylist works his or her "magic." It may take a little extra time, plus a dose of distraction and child psychology, but the experience needn't be traumatic for anyone — including you.

**Dear Abby:** I was invited to my high school reunion, and I really want to go — but I didn't graduate with my class. What is the proper thing to do? Should I go or just stay home?

**—Wants to Go in California**  
Dear Wants to Go: The invitation said "reunion." It's not a review of who graduated with the class and who didn't. Since you were invited, and you'd like to see your old classmates, accept the invitation and go. I'm sure they'll be as glad to see you as you are to see them.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>  
Universal Press Syndicate

## Dear Abby



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PLUJE

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OPTIA

SLUHB

www.jumble.com

CYOUTH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

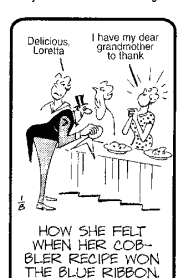
Ans:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UNWED FLORA UPLIFT BANTER  
Answer: The furniture salesman was hired because he was — TOP "DRAWER"

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



HOW SHE FELT WHEN HER COBBLER RECIPE WON THE BLUE RIBBON.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UNWED FLORA UPLIFT BANTER  
Answer: The furniture salesman was hired because he was — TOP "DRAWER"

# Having kids choice, not obligation

**Dear Annie:** I read the letter from "Child-Free by Choice." I am 50 years old and never had the slightest desire to have children. My aunt once told me that I was selfish not to provide my mother with grandchildren. Here's what I consider selfish:

1. Women who have children they can't afford and expect the rest of us to pay for them.

2. Women who have children while married to, or involved with, men who abuse them. These men are highly likely to abuse the children, too.

3. People who have children hoping to save a failing relationship.

4. People who keep having children because they are trying for a particular sex.

5. Alcoholics and drug addicts who continue to drink and do drugs while pregnant, knowing

## Annie's Mailbox



the effects it could have on the child.

I'm glad some of us realize we are not parent material.

**—Child-Free and Happy**

**Dear Child-Free:** You aren't the only one who thought so. Read on.

**From Connecticut:** I'm 38, my husband is 43, and we've been

married five years. Neither of us has a burning need to reproduce. Two years before our wedding, my husband noticed a couple in their mid-40s, enjoying themselves on a docked boat. The name of the boat? "Instead of Kids." That did it for us.

**East Coast:** I was married at 18, had my first child at 19, and my third at 25. When I asked to have a tubal ligation, I was told, "You're too young. Wait until you're 30." On my 30th birthday, I asked again to have the surgery and was told to wait three more

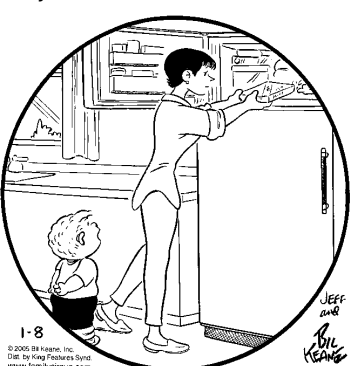
years.

All this time, I've been taking either birth control pills or injections that put me at risk for blood clots and stroke, and have kept my weight and blood pressure up, just to keep me from having that extra kid I don't want. I love the children I have, I just don't want any more.

**Midwest:** I'm 41 years old, married 11 years. I have no urge to put on excess weight, throw up in the morning, have swollen ankles and go through hours of labor. I believe people are jealous of that I have a higher standard of living and a more carefree lifestyle. I come and go as I please. I buy whatever I want or need. They, on the other hand, have to plan their life around the needs and wants of their children.

**Annie's Mailbox** is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.  
Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"Can we have something new and improved for dinner?"

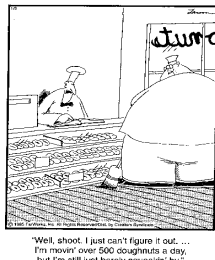
## GRAFFITI

Why is temptation so irresistible when you're broke?

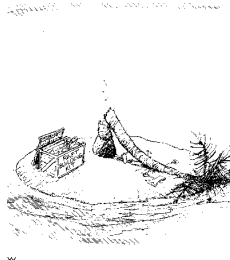
## Dennis the Menace



## The Far Side



## Non Sequiter

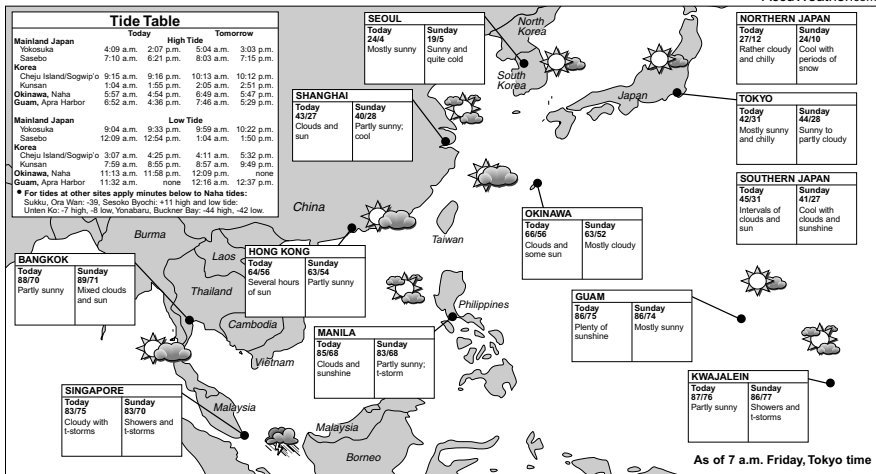




# The Pacific Forecast

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## Extended Forecasts

### TOKYO

Monday: Mostly sunny, high 43, low 35.  
 Tuesday: Mostly sunny, high 48, low 36.

### KADENA

Monday: Rain, high 63, low 55.  
 Tuesday: Rain, high 66, low 58.

### SEUL

Monday: Mostly sunny, high 24, low 12.  
 Tuesday: Rain, high 27, low 12.

### MANILA

Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 84, low 68.  
 Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, high 85, low 69.

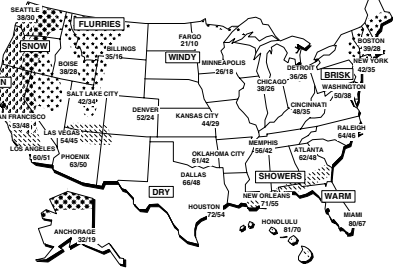
### HAGATNA

Monday: Showers, high 86, low 76.  
 Tuesday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 76.

## Thursday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	43/26	Los Angeles	60/47
Amarillo	45/26	Little Rock	38/34
Anchorage	32/16	Louisville	42/26
Ashville	63/40	Miami	80/68
Baltimore	54/34	Milwaukee	25/14
Birmingham	59/45	Nashville	47/33
Bismarck	19/2	New York	39/34
Boise	32/25	Omaha	12/10
Boston	36/32	Orlando	80/60
Brownsville	62/58	Philadelphia	46/38
Buffalo	35/26	Phoenix	59/42
Burlington	28/22	Pittsburgh	54/29
Charleston, SC	77/65	Portland, OR	41/36
Charlotte	70/45	Portland, ME	30/23
Chicago	38/24	Salt Lake City	32/21
Cleveland	40/26	St. Louis	29/20
Duluth	14/0	San Antonio	46/38
El Paso	53/34	San Diego	60/48
Hartford	34/29	San Juan	84/72
Helena	19/1	Tampa	78/64
Indianapolis	34/21	Tulsa	26/25
Jacksonville	79/65	Washington	56/40
Kansas City	19/16	Wichita	25/21

## Saturday, January 08



## U.S. Extended Forecast

A low pressure center will bring rain to the Appalachians and the mid-Atlantic region on Saturday; a wintry mix will occur from the New York/Pennsylvania border into central Ohio. Some showers will dampen parts of the Southeast along the storm's cold front. Dry weather will dominate most of the Plains and Midwest; however, a cold front will trigger flurries and keep cold air filtering into the northern Plains. A parade of Pacific storm systems will lead to a wet day for much of the West. The first system will cause heavy snow to fall over the Rockies with more rain streaming into Southern California. Rain and mountain snow will accompany the other system pushing into the Northwest.

## Saturday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	88/70	Iskani	43/28
Beijing	28/10	Kadena AB	66/56
Camp Casey	24/3	Kunsan AB	32/16
Chirichu	66/43	Kwajalein	87/76
Diego Garcia	84/75	Manila	85/68
Hagatna	86/75	Misawa AB	31/14
Hanoi	69/56	Osan	27/16
Hong Kong	64/56	Perth	86/64
Honolulu	81/70	Pusan	38/24

## Saturday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	92/78	Buenos Aires	90/71	Kiev	41/32
Athens	52/42	Cairo	58/31	Kuwait	64/41
Auckland	56/42	Cancun	82/68	London	50/37
Baghdad	60/38	Cape Town	68/49	Madrid	55/42
Barbados	81/65	Geneva	47/36	Mexico City	70/45
Barcelona	58/46	Island	45/39	Montreal	31/20
Berlin	47/34	Jerusalem	55/41	Mogadishu	90/74
Bermuda	76/62	Johannesburg	88/62	Moscow	32/28
Brussels	46/29				



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# Johnson, Yankees agree on extension

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Randy Johnson and the New York Yankees reached a preliminary agreement Thursday on a \$32 million, two-year contract extension, The Associated Press learned.

The Big Unit waived his no-trade clause as part of the agreement, a baseball official and a person close to Johnson said on condition of anonymity.

Arizona's trade with New York, which was tentatively agreed to last week's calls for the Diamondbacks to receive pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, catcher Dioner Navarro and \$9 million. Only one step remains for the five-time Cy Young Award winner to join the Yankees: All players involved in the trade must pass physicals.

The Yankees, Diamondbacks and agents for the players were working Thursday on the logistics of arranging the medical exams.

Johnson would join a starting rotation that includes Mike Mussina, Kevin Brown, Carl Pavano, Jarret Wright. Tanyon Sturtze is viewed as a possible sixth starter should Brown, who has had back problems, get hurt again.

The 41-year-old left-hander's current deal calls for a \$16 million salary in 2005, of which \$6 million is deferred at 2 percent interest. New York and Johnson's agent, Alan Nero and Barry Meister, were completing the structure of the new contract Thursday.

## Ponson apologizes for involvement in fight in Aruba

ORANJESTAD, Aruba — Baltimore Orioles pitcher Sidney Ponson apologized for his involvement in a Christmas Day fight on a beach in Aruba, though he didn't mention allegations that he punched a judge.

"I'd like to say that I'm not at all proud of what happened and

## MLB briefs

the way I behaved on the beach that particular day," Ponson told reporters Wednesday in his native Papiamentu language before boarding a private jet headed to Miami. "I would like to apologize to everybody, but especially to the young people of Aruba, who always considered me their role model. I'm very sorry for what took place and I would surely never let this happen again."

Ponson also apologized to the judge and three other people who were on the beach. He did not take any questions before getting on the jet with his agent.

Ponson was released from jail Tuesday after a day in detention while police investigated allegations that he punched a judge. The 28-year-old right-hander faces charges of public violence and simple aggression.

His trial was set for March 3, when he would be in spring training with the Orioles. It was not clear whether Ponson would be required to attend the trial.

## Indians, Millwood near deal

CLEVELAND — Free agent right-hander Kevin Millwood and the Cleveland Indians are a phone call or two away from agreement on a \$7 million, one-year contract.

Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro said Thursday that he and Millwood's agent, Scott Boras, have made significant progress in negotiations over the past 48 hours as they work toward finalizing a deal.

Talks between the sides have dragged on for weeks, slowed by medical tests the Indians required of Millwood, personal matters and Boras being tied up with other high-profile free agent clients.

As long as there are no further

delays, the Indians are likely to announce the signing in the next two days. The deal would contain \$1 million in performance bonuses, with Millwood earning the full amount if he makes 34 starts or pitches 210 innings.

## White Sox agree to one-year deal with Pierzynski

CHICAGO — The Chicago White Sox got the veteran catcher they've been lacking Thursday, agreeing to a \$2.25 million, one-year deal with A.J. Pierzynski.

Pierzynski is one of the better offensive catchers in the league, a career .294 hitter who has batted above .300 twice and was an All-Star in 2003. Over the last four years, he ranks second among all catchers with 127 doubles, third with a .293 average and seventh with a .438 slugging percentage.

## Zaun stays with Blue Jays

TORONTO — Free-agent catcher Gregg Zaun agreed Thursday to a one-year contract with the Toronto Blue Jays that guarantees him \$1.05 million.

Zaun hit .269 with six home runs and 36 RBIs in 107 games with Toronto last season. He became the No. 1 catcher after Greg Myers' season-ending ankle injury in late April.

Toronto General Manager J.P. Ricciardi said Zaun will remain the No. 1 catcher. Myers agreed to a minor league contract last month and was invited to spring training.

## Pirates, SS Wilson agree to \$8 million, two-year contract

PITTSBURGH — All-Star shortstop Jack Wilson and the Pittsburgh Pirates avoided salary arbitration Thursday by agreeing to an \$8 million, two-year contract.

Wilson will make \$3.4 million in 2005 and \$4.6 million in 2006,

and he has the chance to earn additional award bonuses.

The Pirates planned a news conference Friday with the 27-year-old Wilson, the first Pittsburgh shortstop in 96 years with more than 200 hits in a season. Wilson's 2001 hit, last season matched Hall of Famer Honus Wagner's career-high-tying total in 1908.

## Grudzielanek to replace Womack at 2B for Cards

ST. LOUIS — Free-agent second baseman Mark Grudzielanek agreed Thursday to a \$1 million, one-year contract with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Grudzielanek, who can earn up to \$500,000 in performance bonuses, will replace Tony Womack, who played one season batting leadoff for the Cardinals before signing last month with the New York Yankees.

St. Louis signed David Eckstein to replace shortstop Edgar Renteria, who signed with Boston. Eckstein, who helped Anaheim win the 2002 World Series, got a \$10.25 million, three-year deal.

Grudzielanek, 34, batted .307 with six home runs and 23 RBIs in 81 games for the Chicago Cubs last season despite missing more than two months because of an inflamed Achilles' tendon.

## Valdez re-signs with Marlins

MIAMI — Right-hander Ismael Valdez and the Florida Marlins agreed Thursday to a one-year contract.

Valdez, who made \$800,000 last season, declined the Marlins' offer of salary arbitration last month and had until Saturday to re-sign. After that, Valdez would have been able to re-sign with Florida until May 1.

Valdez was 14-9 with a 5.13 ERA last year for San Diego and Florida; he went 5-3 with a 4.50 ERA in 11 starts with the Marlins.

# D-backs, Green fail to reach agreement

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Arizona Diamondbacks and Los Angeles Dodgers slugger Shawn Green failed to reach an agreement on a contract extension by the Thursday deadline, leaving the tentative trade in jeopardy of falling through.

The Dodgers had granted the Diamondbacks a 48-hour window, until 10 a.m. MST, on Thursday to negotiate with Green.

"The window has expired. There is no agreement," Major League Baseball spokesman Pat Courtney said in New York.

Neither Diamondbacks general partner Ken Kendrick nor Green's agent Greg Genske returned telephone calls.

The New York Yankees, meanwhile, reached an agreement on a \$32 million, two-year contract extension for Randy Johnson, a prerequisite to the Big Unit waiving his no-trade clause for a deal to New York.

Arizona is to receive pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, along with prospect Dioner Navarro, a catcher, and \$9 million for Johnson. The Diamondbacks intended to send Navarro and minor league pitcher William Juarez to Los Angeles for Green and \$8 million.

Green has one year and \$16 million remaining on his contract, which includes a no-trade clause. The prospect of his waiving the no-trade clause without a contract extension seemed unlikely.

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# Sunday a wild beginning to NFL playoffs

BY RICK GOSSELIN  
The Dallas Morning News

**T**he NFL playoffs begin this weekend with the wild-card round, which pits four division winners against the four non-division-winning "wild cards." The teams with the four best records draw byes this round, giving them an extra week of rest.

## Analysis

Only twice in the last six years has a team that has played on the opening weekend of the postseason advanced to the Super Bowl — Tennessee in 1999 and Baltimore in 2000. Both were wild cards, and the Ravens went on to win the championship.

Here are the who's and why's of the four teams playing Saturday on wild-card weekend:

### St. Louis Rams (8-8) at Seattle Seahawks (9-7)

**RAMS: WHY THEY CAN WIN** — Officiating emphasis. NFL supervisor of officials Mike Pereira says the crackdown on illegal contact will continue in January and games will be called in the post-season the same way they were called in the regular season.

That's great news for the passing teams. Few teams are as heavily reliant on the pass to win games as the Rams, who finished fifth in the NFL in passing. Quarterback Marc Bulger had two 400-yard games and passed for 3,964 yards despite missing two games with injuries. Any time the ball is in the air the Rams have a chance.

**RAMS: WHY THEY WON'T** — Road woes. Wild-card teams must travel on the road. The Rams are a wild-card team that can't win on the road. The Rams went 6-2 at the Edward Jones Dome this season and 2-6 away from it. The Dolphins beat the Rams in Miami to snap an 0-6 start. The Rams were paddled in December by the 6-10 Cardinals in Arizona, 31-7. They also were spaced by good teams, losing 40-27 in Foxboro to the Patriots and 45-17 in



New York Jets defensive end Shaun Ellis (92), celebrates Jonathan Vilma's 38-yard interception return for a touchdown against the St. Louis Rams in St. Louis on Sunday. Ellis, who had 11 sacks this season, will be leading the Jets' defensive charge against the San Diego Chargers on Saturday.

Green Bay to the Packers. Make the Rams wear the white road jerseys and they become football pacifists.

**SEAHAWKS: WHY THEY CAN WIN** — Opportunism. The Seahawks are soft on defense. They were the only division champion that allowed more points (373) than it scored (371), and only six NFL defenses allowed more yards than the Seahawks. But this defense has survived by forcing turnovers. The Seahawks finished third in the NFL in interceptions (23) and sixth in takeaways (35).

Turnovers create good field position for their offense. Thirteen Seattle defenders came up with

takeaways on interceptions or fumbles.

**SEAHAWKS: WHY THEY WON'T** — No momentum. The Seahawks looked like a Super Bowl contender in September when they rolled to 3-0. But Seattle blew a 17-point fourth quarter lead at home against St. Louis in Week 4, losing 33-27 in overtime, and hasn't been the same team since. The Seahawks staggered down the stretch with a 6-6 record, including a blowout home loss to Buffalo and an embarrassing road loss at Arizona. Seattle no longer looks like a Super Bowl

contender. You want to be playing your best football of the season in December, not September.

### New York Jets (10-6) at San Diego Chargers (12-4)

**JETS: WHY THEY CAN WIN** — Defensive bookends. Ends John Abraham and Shaun Ellis anchor a stout run defense and frantic pass rush. Ellis was a Pro Bowler in 2003 and Abraham in 2004.

Ellis had 11 sacks this season and Abraham 9½. They also combined for 105 takeaways to muscle the Jets into the top five in the NFL in run defense. They are the type of size/speed ends Bill Parcells would love as bookends in

his defense. In fact, Parcells selected both in the first round of his final draft with the Jets in 2000. They control the edges of the defense.

Abraham, who has missed the last month with a sprained lateral collateral ligament in his right knee, is listed as probable on the injury report.

**JETS: WHY THEY WON'T** — Offensive imbalance. The Jets rank third in the NFL in rushing but 22nd in passing.

They generated fewer than 200 yards passing in 10 games and failed to throw a touchdown pass in five of them. Curtis Martin had a terrific season, contending for a rushing title despite a running smack into eight-man fronts. He'll probably see nine-man fronts in the postseason as defenses dare soft-armed Chad Pennington to throw. The Jets managed two individual 100-yard receiving games. The Colts had an NFL-high 14.

**CHARGERS: WHY THEY CAN WIN** — Coaching. That's right, coaching. Marty Schottenheimer has been much-maligned because he has never taken a team to the Super Bowl in his 19 seasons as an NFL head coach. What can't be disregarded is the fact he ranks eighth in career victories (177) and has suffered only two losing seasons. He engineered a 10-victory improvement at San Diego from 2003 to 2004. He's reached three conference title games. If he reaches a fourth, don't bet against him. Laddian Tomlinson proves the best way to win is by losing.

**CHARGERS: WHY THEY WON'T** — Travel. If the Chargers win their first-round game in sunny Southern California, they probably will have to travel to the Eastern time zone on three consecutive weekends. That would be a boon to their frequent flyer account — 2,106 miles to Pittsburgh (AFC semifinals), 2,585 miles to Boston (AFC finals) and then 2,088 miles to Jacksonville (Super Bowl). But three cross-country flights in a span of three weeks takes a toll on the body. San Diego played its only Super Bowl in Miami and was smoked by the 49ers, 49-26.

## Odds makers, matchups favor Seahawks, Chargers, Colts, Pack

BY DAVE GOLDBERG  
The Associated Press

The NFL playoffs are usually easier to handicap than the regular season for a simple reason: The better teams are at home.

So the oddsmakers automatically give the three points for home-field advantage, plus a few more for being better. That's the case as the playoffs start this weekend.

The closest line is in Seattle, where the Seahawks are favored by four over the Rams, even though St. Louis won both meetings between them in the NFC West, easily the league's worst division.

That's one of two division matchups this weekend. The other is in Green Bay, where the

## NFL picks

Packers and Vikings play for the third time this season. In fact, all four games are rematches, although Broncos-Colts is barely that — Indianapolis played scrubs in Denver last week.

### The picks:

**St. Louis (plus 4) at Seattle:** The Seahawks' problems this year started in their fourth game, when they were unbeaten and led the Rams by 17 points at home with just more than 6 minutes to go. They lost 33-27 in overtime and later fell 23-12 in St. Louis.

It shouldn't happen again, although Seattle is in psychological disarray.

Shaun Alexander "apologized"

for complaining about not getting the ball for the Seahawks' final touchdown against Atlanta last week and losing the rushing title by 1 yard to the Jets' Curtis Martin. But there was an edge to the apology.

Nonetheless, St. Louis was 2-6 on the road this season, Seattle is more talented anyway and ... **SEAHAWKS, 35-26.**

**New York Jets (plus 6) at San Diego:** Another rematch: New York won 34-28 in Week 2, when the Chargers didn't know they were good.

Since then, San Diego has gotten better and the Jets have gotten better, in part because Chad Pennington is playing with a sore rotator cuff, something his many critics in New York don't seem to have considered in taking shots at him.

Pennington doesn't have the strongest arm when healthy. Now he can hardly throw deep at all, allowing defenses to stack for Curtis Martin. San Diego will do that as much as it can.

**Chargers, 24-16.**  
**Denver (plus 10) at Indianapolis:** The Broncos made the playoffs by beating the visiting Colts, who used Jim Sorgi at quarterback.

These are the Colts with Peyton Manning, who beat Denver 41-10 in last season's first round at the RCA Dome.

That caused Mike Shanahan to revamp his defense, bringing in Champ Bailey and John Lynch to help the secondary. They have, but they're not going to shut down Manning, Edgerlin James and the Marvin Harrison-Reggie Wayne-Brandon Stokley troika. ... **COLTS, 31-17.**

**Minnesota (plus 6) at Green Bay:** The Packers won both meetings this season 34-31, the latest in Minneapolis on Dec. 24. And their secondary is certainly vulnerable to Daunte Culpepper, Randy McMichael and Brett Favre, although Moss provoked some discord by walking off the field with 2 seconds left in the Vikings' loss in Washington last week.

Nonetheless, the most telling numbers are these: The Packers won nine of their final 11 games; the Vikings lost seven of their last 10. In the second straight season they've done magic.

The Lambeau magic isn't what it used to be, but ... **PACKERS, 34-31.**

**Last week:** 7-8-1 (spread), 9-7 (straight up).  
**Regular season:** 111-123-6 (spread), 156-84 (straight up).



# San Francisco looks to L.A. for its savior

By TIM KAWAKAMI

San Jose Mercury News

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Pete Carroll has everything, except NFL validation. The San Francisco 49ers have nothing, except jobs to fill and money to spend.

## Commentary

You can see where this is leading. You can't miss it now. If things go as the 49ers wish, here's how it works: One successful coach's Super Bowl ambition plus an unimpassioned franchise's desperation adds up to Carroll, who just led USC to a national title, being offered more than \$20 million to revive the 49ers.

It may not play out that way, depending on Carroll's chemistry with 49ers owner John York and the 49ers' willingness to give the 53-year-old Marin native major bucks and total personnel control.

It may not even be a good marriage for either side. Just a convenient one.

But it was clear Wednesday that the Great Search for a Savior will start at Carroll's door.

Does Carroll still have the NFL itch after back-to-back national titles with the Trojans, including Tuesday's 55-19 walloping of Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl?

Would he leave the best college job in America for the worst one in the NFL? Does York have the ability to close this deal? Is Carroll truly serious, or is this all a tease?

The 49ers are about to find out. Things have broken apart in 49erland. York just spent more than \$10 million to create an opening for Carroll, and he thinks Carroll

can put it back together.

"Well, I think we all watched the game last night," York said Wednesday when asked about Carroll's candidacy. "I think it was a tremendous game. They were very dominant. And he's a great coach."

From the moment that York announced that he was discarding his coach, Dennis Erickson, and his general manager, Terry Donahue, you could feel the organization tilt toward Carroll's USC fields.

■ Carroll has Bill Walsh's blessing, proclaimed in a column Walsh wrote in the Los Angeles Times about the Orange Bowl.

"Pete Carroll is the most dynamic coach in all of football right now," Walsh wrote.

■ Carroll has the fire and charisma that Erickson — who also won two college national titles — never displayed.

■ When York described his criteria for his search, he sounded like he was giving Carroll's résumé.

He must have NFL experience (Carroll has, including a 1995-1996 stint as the 49ers' defensive coordinator); but "not necessarily" successful NFL head-coaching experience, and he must come from a "winning program."

York all but guaranteed that the coach would be the team's No. 1 decision-maker and that the general manager would answer to the coach.

Carroll has always maintained that his 27-21 coaching tenure in 1997-99 with the New England Patriots was ruined because he did not have full control. (He also had one fruitless season coaching the New York Jets.) York wants a Bill Belichick super-power coach. Carroll has always



**Southern Cal coach Pete Carroll was 33-31 in four NFL seasons, three with New England and one with the New York Jets.**

wanted to be an NFL super-coach, and he has an old Jets comrade, Pat Kirwan, who could be his GM-in-waiting.

■ Carroll badly wants to win a Super Bowl and is tired of hearing that he's a great fit only for college. No matter how cushy the college situation, every football coach wants to win a Super Bowl.

Listen to Erickson talk about the Super Bowl, as he said goodbye to the 49ers: "That's why I left Oregon state, that's why I came

here. I wanted to come in and have the opportunity to win the biggest prize of them all. Obviously that didn't happen."

■ Carroll apparently has the backing of several 49ers alumni who have recently grabbed York's ear, including Ronnie Lott and Tim McDonald.

I don't know if this signals a dramatic change in York's methods, but listening to key retired players is a decent start.

Carroll was spotted chatting with Nick Saban, the former LSU coach, on the field Tuesday before the Orange Bowl. Think Carroll was pondering the \$4.7-million-a-year deal Saban received from the Miami Dolphins?

■ Removing Carroll from USC could mean the end of the Trojans' yearly beat-down of Notre Dame, York's beloved alma mater. (Just kidding on that one. I think.)

Now, the obvious question: Hasn't Carroll already shown that winning big in the NFL might not be his fate?

"Pete was in the wrong environment a couple times," Walsh wrote in the Times. "No matter how well he did, everything was stacked against him. But now he's broken out and proved that he's a great coach."

Still, if Donahue was a questionable coach to turn the 49ers because he had no NFL personnel experience, what makes Carroll worthy of complete control?

Is this yet another York blunder, after riding himself of two previous blunders? Or will York mess up this hiring, anyway?

Those are all things for York to answer, although I'm pretty sure he has already come up with his own \$25 million conclusion.

## Close to scrapheap, Brees to keeper

By BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — When the San Diego Chargers reported to training camp in late July, they were summoned to a players-only meeting by Drew Brees.

It might have been a bold move, because it was the seventh week before coach Marty Scottenheimer decided Brees would keep his job as starting quarterback.

Brees still considered himself the starter even after a rough 2003 season and his message was simple: Don't listen to the naysayers who thought there was no way the NFL's worst team would be better.

"Well you know what? The people who were going to determine what we were going to do were in that room," Brees recalled after he was voted The Associated Press 2004 Comeback Player of the Year.

"So that was my point: Look around, guys. It's just us. Know that we control our own destiny. Nobody else does. Don't worry about what people say, just focus on what we do."

Brees has gone from forgotten man to one of the NFL's best quarterbacks. He'll make his playoff debut Saturday night when the AFC West champion Chargers host the wild-card New York Jets.

Brees made his fourth NFL sea-

son his best, ranking third in passer rating behind Peyton Manning and Daunte Culpepper, and making his first Pro Bowl. The former Purdue star and first choice in the second round of the 2001 draft, Brees completed 262 of 400 passes for 3,159 yards, 27 touchdowns and only seven interceptions.

His 104.8 rating was a 37.3-point improvement over the previous year.

Brees earned 18½ votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football, easily beating Carolina line-backer Mark Fields, who received 10 votes. Fields was sidelined last season with Hodgkin's disease.

With Brees the starter for most of 2003, San Diego went 4-12. He played a primary role in that flop with 15 interceptions and just 11 touchdowns passes, was benched for five straight games and yanked from two others.

"I could turn on the film and watch myself last year and say, 'That's not me. That's not the way I play,'" Brees said.

But the Chargers thought otherwise.

General manager A.J. Smith told anyone who would listen that the Chargers needed to "upgrade" at quarterback.

The Chargers so doubted Brees that they drafted Eli Manning with the top pick last April, then traded him to the New York Giants for the rights to another high-

## 2004 NFL COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR

### A cool Brees tops the list

San Diego's Drew Brees was selected The Associated Press' NFL Comeback Player of the Year, after a tumultuous 2003 season in which he was benched for five games down the stretch.



Brees

2004

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#### SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

- Selected to the 2005 Pro Bowl.
- Had 27 TDs and just seven INTs, compared to 15 INTs and 11 TDs last year when the Chargers were an NFL-worst 4-12.

#### Voting by a nationwide panel of the media

Drew Brees, San Diego	18 1/2
Mark Fields, Carolina	10
Willie McGahee, Buffalo	6
Jerome Bettis, Pittsburgh	4 1/2
Corey Dillon, New England	4
Michael Vick, Atlanta	3
Brian Griese, Tampa Bay	1
T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Cin.	1

AP

ly rated quarterback prospect, Philip Rivers. Had Rivers not held out for half the preseason, Brees might not have gotten on the field in '04 — he wasn't chosen as the starter until six days before the opener.

## Nemesis: Marty has a track record of short playoff runs

### NEMESIS, FROM BACK PAGE

A year later, in Denver, 175-pound Broncos cornerback Jeremiah Castille stripped the ball from running back Earnest Byner at the Denver 2 with 1:05 left. Denver won, 38-33.

Scottenheimer remembers that receiver Webster Slaughter was supposed to run a route into one corner of the end zone.

"But he was a young player and he was interested in seeing what happened on the play so he took one step and he stopped," Scottenheimer said. "Well, when the defender saw him stop, he looked back and saw the runner come and he took off. He never would have been in the play if they had just run up in the corner of the end zone. Byner never saw him coming."

In 1995, Scottenheimer's Chiefs had the NFL's best record and were shocked 10-7 at home by the wild-card Indianapolis Colts. The Chiefs committed an uncharacteristic four turnovers and Lin Elliott missed three field goals.

The same Colts, by the way, upset the Chargers 35-20 on Dec. 31, 1995, San Diego's most recent playoff game.

Scottenheimer's last playoff game was after the 1997 season, and again Elway ended his season, 14-10 in Kansas City.

Linebacker Donnie Edwards, now in his third year with the Chargers, remembers the Chiefs collapsing against another wild-card team after again going

13-3.

"All of a sudden we lost to the Broncos and everyone's just sitting there stunned and wondering what's over, what do we now?" Edwards said.

Edwards admits the Chiefs probably overlooked the Broncos, who went on to win the Super Bowl.

That was also the game in which Scottenheimer went back to quarterback Elvis Grbac even though Rich Gannon played well in relief while Grbac was injured. It was Scottenheimer's fourth straight playoff loss.

Scottenheimer says he never wonders why he's had such bad luck, "because then you have to go and look at the ones that went your way. You know they're single eliminations. In Hell, we went six quarters against the Jets to win in that year of 'The Drive.'"

Edwards said Scottenheimer has eased up on the Chargers in practice, which could be a key Saturday night.

"I know in the past it wasn't like that," Edwards said. "We were in pads and we were banging. In that respect, it's totally changed. That's huge right there. He's taken them off us so we can be ready, set to go and fast on Saturday."

And maybe change their coach's luck.



Scottenheimer

# Early season Rockets winning streak

By JOEL ANDERSON  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON—A year removed from one of the worst seasons in franchise history, the Phoenix Suns are now winning every when they're road-weary and their best player has an off-night.

Shawn Marion scored 22 points, Quentin Richardson added 18 points and 14 rebounds and the Suns effortlessly bounced back from a draining victory in Minnesota the night before to the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night.

"We weren't sharp. Maybe it was fatigue," said point guard Steve Nash, an offseason acquisition from Dallas who is perhaps the biggest reason the Suns is 16 games ahead of last year's pace.

"But we were good enough. That's what we've done a lot this year. We make enough shots and do just enough to give ourselves a chance."

Amare Stoudemire finally cooled off after a torrid two-game stretch in which he scored a total of 84 points, finishing with just 19 points on 5-for-15 shooting and nine rebounds.

But his Suns teammates picked up the slack and rolled to a relatively easy victory despite coming off an emotional 122-115 win at Minnesota the night before. And then, meanwhile, had been off for two days since a 99-90 win over Utah and hasn't played a road game since Dec. 29.

Nash had 12 points and 13 assists, Joe Johnson had 17 points and 12 rebounds and Casey Jacobsen tied a season-high with 14 points for the Suns, who won their fourth straight to improve their NBA-best record to 11-1.

Tracy McGrady led Houston with 24 points, David Wesley added 15 and Yao Ming finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. The loss snapped Houston's season-high three-game winning streak.

"I've never seen a team that keeps you back on your heels when you make a shot," McGrady said. "We're not used to that. Those guys get the ball out and they're gone. It was crazy tonight. You're just glad that every NBA team isn't like that."

**Mavericks 118, Lakers 104:** At Dallas, Jason Terry scored a season-high 28 points and was nearly perfect both in shooting and in running the Dallas offense.

Terry was 9-for-10 on field goals, hitting all five three-pointers he attempted. He hit 5 of 6 free throws, and added six rebounds and five assists.

**Heat 102, Knicks 94:** At Miami, Shaquille O'Neal had 33 points and 18 rebounds, Dwyane Wade scored 21 and the Heat limited the Knicks to two field goals in a second-half rout.

O'Neal made 14 of 21 shots, eclipsing the 30-point and 18-rebound marks for the third time this season. Wade added a game-high 11 rebounds.

**Magic 105, SuperSonics 87:** Steve Francis scored 27 of his 35 points after halftime, and host Orlando snapped a four-game losing streak. Grant Hill scored

21 points, shooting 9-for-11.

**Cavaliers 101, Hawks 85:** At Cleveland, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 20 of his 26 points after halftime and Cleveland shut down Atlanta early in the fourth quarter.

LeBron James added 20 points, nine assists and six rebounds. He second-half, wearing a protective mask over a bruised left cheek for the Cavs, who clamped down on the Hawks, blanking them 12-0 in the final 16 minutes of the quarter.

**Celtics 84, Warriors 83:** Paul Pierce had 19 points, eight rebounds and eight assists to make up for a poor outside shooting night and Al Jefferson had his first career double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Gary Payton added 13 points for the Celtics.

**Bobcats 102, Timberwolves 84:** Gerald Wallace had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and an in-your-face block on Wally Szczerbiak that he converted into a fast-break layup.

Wallace had one of his best games as a Bobcat, turning it up during a 16-1 run that helped Cleveland break its six-game losing streak at home. He started the run with a free throw, and he hustled upcourt after blocking Szczerbiak's shot for a layup that drew a foul. His free throw made it 87-81 with 2:26 to play.

**Raptors 96, Kings 93:** Chris Bosh had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the first back-to-back 20-point games of his career, and Mo'Nique Lewis had 20. The bench for the Raptors, who have won five straight at home.

Mike Bibby had a season-high 32 points

for the Kings.

**Bucks 97, Nets 74:** At Milwaukee, Joe Smith and Ray Allen each scored 17 points and Desmond Mason added 16 for the Bucks, who had lost three straight and eight of 11.

Jabari Smith had career highs with 19 points and six assists in a season-high 36 minutes off the bench for the Nets, who came in scoring 86.5 points a game — 29th in the league.

**Bulls 95, Hornets 89:** Kirk Hinrich scored 19 points and Eddy Curry added 17, helping resurgent Chicago hand host New Orleans its ninth straight loss.

The Hornets, led by Baron Davis' 21 points, erased a 14-point deficit in the second half, but the Bulls clamped down defensively, forcing New Orleans to attempt a barrage of three-pointers, most of which missed.

**76ers 106, Jazz 99:** Allen Iverson scored all 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and Philadelphia won in Utah for the first time in four years.

Kenyon Martin added 30 points, scoring 18 during the Sixers' 39-point opening quarter, and Marc Jackson added 23 points, making all 10 of his free throws.

Philadelphia improved to 5-2 on an eight-game road trip, which ends Friday at Minnesota. The Sixers hadn't won in Utah since Dec. 26, 2000 and had dropped 14 of 18 on the road against the Jazz.

**Cavaliers 102, Trail Blazers 99:** At Los Angeles, Corey Maggette scored 15 of his 31 points in the final quarter and hit a key jumper with 20 seconds remaining.

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
New York	16	500	1st
Philadelphia	16	499	2nd
Boston	17	469	1st
Washington	11	468	4th
New Jersey	11	355	4th
Southeast Division			
Miami	26	765	1st
Orlando	16	513	2nd
Charlotte	16	513	3rd
Atlanta	15	467	4th
Central Division			
Cleveland	19	613	1st
Indiana	16	532	2nd
Chicago	16	529	3rd
Memphis	10	345	8th

### Western Conference

Southwest Division			
San Antonio	26	788	1st
Phoenix	19	614	2nd
Houston	16	510	4th
New Orleans	16	509	5th
Portland	16	467	6th
Northwest Division			
Seattle	23	767	1st
Portland	16	467	2nd
Utah	11	323	33rd
Pacific Division			
Phoenix	26	875	1st
Lakers	16	533	11th
Golden State	11	344	17th

### Wednesday's games

Cleveland 101, Atlanta 85	11:00
Boston 84, Golden State 84	7:00
Charlotte 99, Sacramento 99	7:00
Charlotte 102, Minnesota 84	7:00
Miami 102, New York 94	7:00
Orlando 99, New Jersey 74	7:00
Chicago 96, New Orleans 89	7:00
Philadelphia 106, Utah 94	7:00
Phoenix 108, Houston 96	7:00
San Antonio 106, Dallas 94	7:00
LA Clippers 102, Portland 98	7:00

### Thursday's games

Seattle at Washington	7:00
Memphis at Detroit	7:00
Indiana at San Antonio	7:00
Friday's games	
Milwaukee at Toronto	7:00
Charlotte at Orlando	7:00
Detroit at Boston	7:00
San Antonio at New York	7:00
Orlando at Memphis	7:00
Philadelphia at Minnesota	7:00
Chicago at Chicago	7:00
Miami at Portland	7:00
LA Lakers	7:00

### Saturday's games

New York at Cleveland	7:00
Denver at San Antonio	7:00
LA Lakers at LA Clippers	7:00
Minnesota at Washington	7:00
San Antonio at New Orleans	7:00

Boston at Chicago 7:00

Indiana at Dallas 7:00

Atlanta 11:00

Washington 11:00

Philadelphia 11:00

San Antonio 11:00

Orlando 11:00

Charlotte 11:00

Atlanta 11:00

Cleveland 11:00

Indiana 11:00

Chicago 11:00

Memphis 11:00

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# BC stuns UConn, off to great start in history

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut's last-est loss befuddled coach Jim Calhoun.

No. 25 Boston College (12-0, 1-0 Big East) outmuscled and outthundered the defending NCAA champs in a 75-70 victory Wednesday night to jump out to their best start in school history.

"We're missing something," Calhoun said. "Leadership? Ability to listen? Sometimes kids don't get championship seasons and a couple guys have answers. Unfortunately they should have more questions."

## Top 25 roundup

Craig Smith scored 16 points including the game-winning free throw with 35 seconds left to lift the Eagles to their third victory in 12 meetings at the Hartford Civic Center and first since 1987.

"We did not look like a Connecticut team," Calhoun said. "We gave away that opportunity of having the crowd and allowed BC to take the game away from us."

In foul trouble for most of the game, Smith made the most of his 16 minutes. The 250-pound forward scored 16 points for Boston College, which joins the Atlantic coast Conference next year.

"We're not going to let people come and beat on us. We're going to put the beating on them," Smith said.

Jared Dudley led the Eagles with 17 points and was able to penetrate the lane time and again against the much bigger frontcourt of 10th-ranked UConn (8-2, 0-1). Josh Boone dominated inside for UConn with 18 points and 15 boards, but it was the Eagles' frontcourt that prevailed.

Although the Huskies outscored BC 44-40, the Eagles scored 23 second-chance points or 14 15-second rebounds.

Neutralized in the first half by foul trouble, Smith played just six minutes and had two points. He made up for it in a hurry in the second. He scored 10 points in the first 17 minutes to help the Eagles rally from a seven-point halftime deficit.

UConn has dominated the series the last 17 years, winning 28 of 31 meetings, but it's unlikely they'll meet in the future because bad feelings exist over the Eagles' dealings with the ACC.

The fans clearly made their opinions known, holding up farewell signs such as "Betrayal College." Some in the sellout crowd of 16,294 sarcastically waved good



Boston College's Jared Dudley takes the ball away from Connecticut's Charley Villanueva in the second half Wednesday. Dudley paced the Eagles with 17 points.

ridance when the final buzzer sounded.

**Georgetown 67, No. 16 Pittsburgh 64:** At Pittsburgh, Brandon Bowman drove the lane for the go-ahead basket with 8.4 seconds remaining and the Panthers then failed twice to get off a shot, falling to the Hoyas in the Panthers' second upset loss in as many games.

Pitt (10-2) followed up a stunning 69-66 loss Sunday to Bucknell with one nearly as surprising — only its third in 46 home games since the Petersen Events Center opened for the 2002-03 season.

Georgetown (9-3) had lost eight consecutive Big East games dating to last season, only to win its conference debut under new coach John Thompson III — the son of the Hoyas coach who was 24-10 against Pitt from 1982-99.

The Hoyas hit nine of 12 three-point attempts during the first half, when they once led 28-9, then ran their Princeton-style offense featuring numerous back-door cuts and quick passes to perfection in the second half.

**No. 1 Illinois 84, Ohio State 65:** James Augustine tied his career high with 21 points as No. 1 Illinois all but abandoned its outside game in intense jumpers and layups in its Big Ten opener.

The Illini (15-0) led by only six at half-time, but used an 13-7 run at the start of the second half to build their lead with 14-14 to go. Ohio State (11-3) never got closer than seven after that.

**No. 2 Kansas 65, Texas A&M 60:** Alex Galindo hit a treblemaking three-pointer, and Christian Moody and Aaron Miles each made two free throws in the final seconds to lift host Kansas.

The Aggies (11-1) came in as 17-point underdogs despite being one of the country's last unbeaten teams. But Kansas (10-0), without injured star Wayne Simien, struggled all night against the Aggies' aggressive, pressing defense. Texas A&M, which has lost 18 straight regular-season conference games, held the Jayhawks to 41 percent shooting.

**No. 5 Duke 59, Princeton 46:** At Durham, N.C., J.J. Redick made all 14 of his free throws and scored 21 points, helping the Blue Devils celebrate the 65th anniversary of Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Shelden Williams had 14 rebounds for the Blue Devils, who improved to 10-0 for the fourth time in five seasons.

**No. 6 Syracuse 79, St. John's 65:** At New York, Hakim Warrick scored 22 points and Jerry McNamara added 19 for Syracuse, which had one of its best shooting games of the season.

The Orange (14-1) opened Big East play with their 36th consecutive win over an in-state opponent.

**No. 8 Kentucky 79, South Carolina 75:** Keleena Azubuike made four three-pointers and finished with 21 points as Kentucky held on against visiting South Carolina.

Chuck Hayes added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Kentucky (10-1), which won its league opener for the 17th time in 18 years. South Carolina (8-4, 1-0) has lost three games to ranked teams this season, having also dropped four road decisions at Kansas and No. 16 Pittsburgh.

**Pittsburgh 65, No. 14 Iowa 63:** Brent Petway scored 14 points, and visiting Michigan held off a fierce second-half rally in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

Daniel Horton returned to the lineup

after missing six games with a knee injury, and finished with 13 points, two assists and a steal for the Wolverines (9-5), who won their third straight overall and third in four games against Iowa (12-2).

**Houston 70, No. 17 Louisville 67:** At Houston, Andre Owens scored 27 points, including a three-pointer for the go-ahead basket with 21 seconds left.

It was Houston's first win over Top 25 team since beating then-No. 25 Tulsa on Dec. 4, 1996.

Freshman Juan Palacios had 20 points for Louisville, which lost to Houston for the first time in nine meetings.

**No. 18 Mississippi State 90, Auburn 53:** At Starkville, Miss., Lawrence Roberts had 19 points and 15 rebounds, and Mississippi State won the teams' Southeastern Conference opener.

Winsome Frazier and Jamall Edmonson each had 12 points for the Bulldogs (13-2), the defending regular-season champions who lost 50 percent from the field to win their eighth straight over Auburn.

**Vanderbilt 70, No. 19 Alabama 56:** At Nashville, Tenn., Mario Moore shot 4-for-5 from three-point range and finished with 16 points.

Jason Holwerda also scored 16 points for the Commodores (10-4, 1-0 SEC), who won their sixth straight overall and beat the Crimson Tide (11-3, 0-1) for the fourth time in a row.

**No. 20 Michigan St 84, Penn St 58:** Alan Anderson scored 17 points and Shannon Brown added 16 to lead the visiting Spartans in the Big Ten opener for both teams.

Michigan State (9-2) shot 30-for-59 for the game and 16-for-17 from the free-throw line in the Spartans' sixth straight win.

**Villanova 84, No. 21 West Virginia 46:** At Villanova, Pa., Allan Ray scored 26 points and Mike Nardi added 18 to lead Villanova, snapping the Mountaineers' season-opening losing streak.

Curtis Sumpter added 13 points and Randy Foye had 11 for the Wildcats (8-1), who won their seventh straight.

**No. 24 George Washington 71, La Salle 42:** At Washington, T.J. Thompson had 16 points, Pops Mensah-Bonsu had 12 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks, and Mike Hall had nine points and a career-high 17 rebounds for George Washington (9-2, 1-0 Atlantic 10).

# Miami VR Parrish to skip senior season, enter NFL Draft

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Miami receiver Roscoe Parrish is skipping his senior season and is entering this year's NFL Draft, his agent said Thursday.

Parrish scheduled a news conference for later in the day to formally announce the decision, agent Drew Rosenhaus said. Miami officials had no immediate comment.

Parrish was Miami's top receiver this season, catching 43 passes for 693 yards. He also averaged 16.2 yards per punt return, running two back for touchdowns — including one in the Hurricane 27-10 Peach Bowl victory over Florida on Dec. 31, a game in which he was the co-MVP.

The 5-foot-9, 172-pound Miami native was the first player offered a scholarship by Larry Coker following his promotion to head coach four years ago. He is the fourth Miami player to declare early for the draft in the past two seasons; Sean Taylor, Kellen Winslow and Vince Wilfork were all

first-round picks in 2004.

## Air Force RB leaves school after cheating allegation

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Running back Eddie Moss has resigned from the Air Force Academy after a cadet honor board found him guilty of cheating, coach Fisher DeBerry said.

Moss, of Englewood, Colo., was among six cadets found guilty of cheating in a behavioral sciences class in September, academy officials said. Four were later cleared by commandant Brig. Gen. Johnny Weida, including basketball player Dan Nwaeleke. Academy spokesman Lt. Col. Laurent Fox said the second cadet who was not cleared has resigned. Fox would not release the cadet's name.

The cases against the four cadets who were cleared did not establish sufficient proof they had cheated, Fox said.

DeBerry, reached on a recruiting trip in Houston on Wednesday, said he was disappointed Moss was no longer on the team.

Moss rushed for 81 yards on 10 carries in five games and scored touchdowns against Eastern Washington and Utah. He

was suspended Oct. 9 but continued to practice while his case was investigated.

## Champ Car's Jourdain switches to Busch ride

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Champ Car driver Michel Jourdain Jr. signed a deal Thursday to switch to NASCAR and run the full Busch Series schedule this season.

Jourdain plans to drive a Taurus for ppc Racing and will be the first Hispanic to race a full NASCAR schedule.

The 28-year-old Jourdain spent nine years in top open-wheel competition, and finished 12th in the Champ Car World Series last season in a Ford-powered car for RuSport.

The son of well-known Mexican racer Michel Jourdain Sr., he became the youngest Champ Car driver at age 19 in 1996 and was the former CART series' Most Improved Driver in 1997.

In 152 career Champ Car starts, Jourdain had two wins, 25 top-10s and nine top-three finishes. His best championship finish was third in 2003, when he raced for Team Rahal.

## Sprinter Collins appeals to CAS against eight-year ban

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — American sprinter Michelle Collins is appealing her eight-year doping ban to the highest court in sports.

Collins filed an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport, seeking to overturn the ban imposed by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency as a result of evidence collected in the BALCO steroids scandal.

No hearing date has been set. The CAS said Thursday it normally issues rulings within four months of an appeal.

The American Arbitration Association sided with USADA on Dec. 10, ruling that Collins used various performance-enhancing substances allegedly provided by the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

While Collins, 33, never tested positive for drugs, USADA charged her with doping based on patterns observed in her blood and urine tests as well as evidence from the BALCO steroids scandal.

In addition to the ban, Collins was stripped of her 2003 world and U.S. indoor titles in the 200 meters.

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## Schottenheimer's nemesis

Playoffs have been unkind to Chargers' veteran coach

BY BERNIE WILSON

The associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Marty Schottenheimer has never had a big problem getting his teams to the playoffs.

When they get there, bad things happen.

Yes, Schottenheimer is the winningest active coach with 177 regular-season wins in 18½ seasons with four franchises, including 12 with his surprising San Diego Chargers this season.

When the calendar changes to January, though, it isn't as pretty.

Schottenheimer is just 5-11 in the playoffs. He's been one-and-done seven times, including his past three trips. None of his 11 playoff teams have reached the Super Bowl.

His defeats have ranged from epic to mystifying.

Who could forget "The Drive" and "The Fumble," consecutive AFC championship games in which his Cleveland Browns came so close to a Super Bowl, only to be denied by John Elway and the Denver Broncos?

When Schottenheimer moved to Kansas City, he made it back to the AFC title game once — and lost. He also had two teams go 13-3 and lock up home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, only to be stunned by wild-card teams in the divisional round.

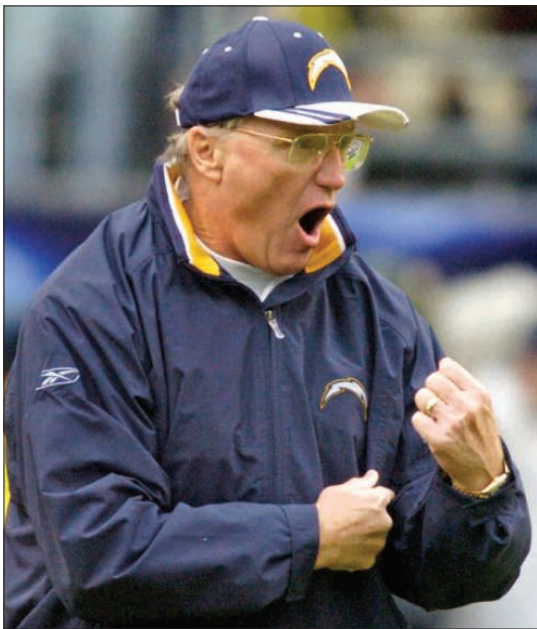
Now the AFC West champion Chargers get to leave their imprint on Schottenheimer's postseason record, for good or bad. They're favored over the visiting wild-card New York Jets on Saturday night.

"My approach is, you can't hide from it," Schottenheimer said. "It is what it is. We have not been nearly as effective in the playoffs as I would like to have been, but there again, there's no re-do's. And we lost some tough ones, some close ones."

His most momentous loss came on Jan. 11, 1987, in Cleveland.

With the Browns leading 20-13 and 5:32 left in regulation, Elway drove the Broncos 98 yards on 15 plays in 4:55 for the tying touchdown, then led them to the winning field goal in overtime.

"It was a terrific football game," Schottenheimer said.



Marty Schottenheimer, above, has the most regular-season victories among active NFL coaches with 177, but the San Diego Chargers' coach is just 5-11 in the postseason. His teams have been beaten in their first playoff game seven times, including the past three, and have never played in a Super Bowl.



Under Schottenheimer, the Kansas City Chiefs twice were the top seed in the AFC but lost both times in their first playoff games.



The play he remembers most is a third-and-18 just after Elway was sacked.

"He put Steve Watson in motion," Schottenheimer said. "He

was in the shotgun. When the ball was snapped it was snapped early and it hit Steve Watson in the hip, but it was a glancing blow and John had to turn and go field the snap.

"I thought shortly afterward that if Watson had been two inches closer to where he started rather than where he was going, the ball would have hit him dead in the hip and would have been rolling around on the ground on third down, and even if they got it, it would have been fourth down."

Instead, Elway completed a 20-yard pass to Mark Jackson to keep "The Drive" alive.

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